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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-244 *20 December 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Asks Baraq To Attend Syrian Talks

TA1912185994 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has asked Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq to be the military officer to participate in the talks with Syria in Washington with Ambassador Rabinovich if the Syrians also send a senior representative, our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports. [passage omitted]

Israeli, Syrian Ambassadors Meet in Washington

TA2012053394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim, the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors to the United States, conferred in Washington last night. Dennis Ross participated in the meeting for the United States. Our correspondent in Washington Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports that military officers did not participate in the meeting. Their participation has apparently been postponed until agreement is reached on the composition of the delegations. It was reported last night that the Damascus regime's leadership has decided to continue with the peace process and the negotiations with Israel on the basis of the agreed upon principles.

Palestinians Hold Emergency Meeting on Talks

JN1812094494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The higher Palestinian committee for negotiations with the Israeli side last night held an emergency session under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat. The committee discussed the latest political developments related to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and the holding of the Palestinian legislative elections.

The committee decided to address memorandums to the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process—the United States and Russia—as well as the European Union states and Egypt to brief their leaders on the latest political developments in light of the Israeli statements calling for delaying the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and postponing the redeployment of the occupation troops in the West Bank.

Some higher committee members have said that the peace process and the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement will be decided during the meeting between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the National Authority, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Erez checkpoint.

Israeli-PLO Security Committee Meets on Shooting

TA1812133094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Dec 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint Israeli-Palestinian security committee held an emergency meeting at the Erez checkpoint this morning. The issue on the agenda was last night's shoot-out at the Sufa checkpoint, in the course of which a Palestinian policeman fired at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, wounding one. The Israeli committee was headed by Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', and the Palestinian by General Ziyad al-Atrash.

The sides reiterated the facts of the event as they knew them. The Israelis pointed out that Israel takes a very grave view of the incident and would like the Palestinian police to try to identify such policemen in advance, as well as conduct an education drive among the policemen, explaining the gravity of the incident and preventing the recurrence of clashes between Palestinian policemen and IDF troops.

The Palestinian participants expressed profound regret at the event and announced that they were convinced it was an isolated incident, a case of a single Palestinian policeman's frenzy in which no other factors were involved. The Palestinian side further announced that related educational activities have already been launched.

Israeli security sources have said that the grave incident casts doubts on the feasibility of trusting Palestinian policemen working with IDF soldiers and border policemen in joint road patrols. The gun-wielding Palestinian policeman's action last night was obviously motivated by nationalism, as he had marched a 2-km distance to perpetrate the attack at Sufa. He is believed to be one of a group of Palestinian policemen who came to the Gaza Strip from an Arab country.

The Palestinians say they will prosecute the policeman, but Israeli security elements stress that the Palestinians must announce a clear-cut policy on the issue in a bid to avert such incidents in the future.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 6 Dec

NC1212181794

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 6 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. People's Assembly Discusses New Press Restrictions

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2. Labor Party Member Kamal Habib Released From Detention

3. EHRO Calls For Trial of Defendants Before Civilian Courts

4. Mustafa Mashhur Article Comments on Situation in Bosnia

5. Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn Scores Opera Aida Fanfare

6. Shaykh al-Ghazali Column Discusses Opera Aida

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES NEW PRESS RESTRICTIONS

A 200-word report by 'Abd-al-Fattah Fayid on page 1 says the People's Assembly Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee has begun discussing new legislation, including the introduction of amendments to the Parties Law that would put further restrictions on parties and their newspapers. Committee Chairman Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar said the aim of the new legislation is to "control foreign financing" of the press "because it is a serious issue that undermines national security." She added that the new legislation will give a "deterrent punishment" to whoever violates the new law, especially in regard to foreign financing of the press.

LABOR PARTY MEMBER KAMAL HABIB RELEASED FROM DETENTION

A 45-word report on page 1 says Kamal Habib, member of the al-Da'wah [Islamic call] secretariat in the Labor Party, was released on 30 November after a four-day detention. No specific charges were made against him.

EHRO CALLS FOR TRIAL OF DEFENDANTS BEFORE CIVILIAN COURTS

A 200-word report on page 1 says the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] has appealed to President Mubarak to take the necessary measures "to stop military tribunals and to try defendants before civilian courts." The EHRO expressed its concern over the increase in trials of civilians before military courts, which often issue death sentences.

MISTAFA MASHHUR ARTICLE COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN BOSNIA

A 1,000-word article by Muslim Brotherhood official Mustafa Mashhur accuses the Serbs of committing crimes in Bosnia similar to those committed by the "Zionists" in Palestine. He says that the United Nations has failed to act in Bosnia just as it failed to act in Palestine. As for the United States, the writer says the U.S. stand is essentially the same as Europe's stand. However, in order to "safeguard its interests in Arab and Islamic countries," the United States has adopted a stand that "ostensibly" supports Bosnia but actually this stands has been "divested of any meaning." Giving an example, he says the United States has requested that the arms embargo on Bosnia be lifted, knowing very well that some members of the UN Security Council will not approve this request. He says this U.S. stand is a smoke screen. He asks, "How long will some Arab and Islamic countries continue to be deceived and to believe that the United States is their friend? When will they wake up from their slumber and comprehend matters as they are?" Not sparing Russia in its support of the Serbs, the writer says that "despite its unenviable position," Russia, which hates religions in general and the Islamic religion in particular, "is supporting the Bosnian Serbs and is warning the UN forces against adopting a positive stand in Bosnia." "At the same time, the Russian foreign minister is visiting some Gulf countries to establish relations with them. Thus, Russia wants to improve its relations with the Islamic states to promote its private interests." The writer concludes that "both the West and the East are conspiring against Islam and the Muslims." The writer regrets that "our Arab and Muslim governments are appeasing the enemies by accusing religious Muslims of being terrorists and extremists, by harassing them and curbing their activity, and by preventing them from extending aid to their brother Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, Bosnia, and elsewhere."

CHIEF EDITOR MAJDI AHMAD HUSAYN SCORES OPERA AIDA FANFARE

Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn writes a 1,500-word article on page 2 in which he deals with the government-inspired fanfare that surrounded the performance of Opera Aida. He sarcastically says that he was "greatly embarrassed" because he did not participate in this "national festival," which all the newspapers have described as a "major event." He says that "an opera show does not deserve all this trouble." In the circumstances surrounding the country, the show resembled a "military battle on which the future of the country depended." He adds that "armies were mobilized and operation rooms were set up" to promote this event. He asks: "What is this hallucination that has hit our rulers? They turned an opera show that takes place on a daily basis elsewhere in the world into a national achievement, a new crossing of the [Suez] Canal, and a storming of the Barlev line." The writer cites the Information Minister as saying that the Opera Aida show will restore Egypt's cultural image in the world and a leading article in AL-AHRAM as putting the Opera Aida show on par with building the High Dam and crossing of the Suez Canal. Elaborating further on this subject, he says that a three-day opera show requires the effort of one private company. Instead, the government "devoted more than one week—one of the most critical weeks because it witnessed the culmination of the Egyptian-U.S. crisis—to having the opera take place." Eleven ministers, plus the prime minister, were put on full alert to remove any obstacles. The security preparations for Opera Aida resembled a military campaign. Between 7,000 and 9,000 security men were mobilized, helicopters flew overhead, curfew was imposed in Luxor, roads were closed, and many arrests took place.

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"As happens in wars, the goal must be achieved at any price." 400 feddans of sugar cane fields were destroyed, lands were seized to build a special road, a bridge was constructed at a cost of 1.5 million pounds, and a temporary city was set up.

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI COLUMN DISCUSSES OPERA AIDA

In his regular column "This is our religion" on page 12, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali says he wasted two hours watching Opera Aida on television. The opera was in Italian, which 90 percent of the Egyptians do not understand. He asks why the big fanfare and the expense of millions of pounds on the show? He believes that the Opera Aida show was a big mistake because it took place when the country was in a state of sadness because of the recent losses and casualties from floods. He says the pains of poor and disaster-stricken people are not being helped by the proceeds of song festivals. "This is a silly imitation of Europe." Opera Aida is an inheritance of Khedive Isma'I, who wanted to make Egypt a part of Europe. Egypt does become a part of Europe by moving nightclubs to it but by moving factories and universities.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 6 Dec

NC1412122994

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 6 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Mufti Confirms Having AIDS Does Not Justify Suicide
2. Egypt To Open Islamic Center in Tashkent
3. Shaykh al-Ghazali Lists Reasons for Visiting Najib Mahfuz
4. Al-Ghazali Interviewed on State of Islamic Nation
5. Cairo University Eastern Studies Center Discusses Role
6. Column Believes Muslims Will Awaken To Combat Conspiracy
7. Female Circumcision Common Among Upper Class Districts
8. Religious Awareness Convoys Enter Prisons, Schools
9. Singapore Mufti Wants Support From al-Azhar, Islamic Institutions
10. Russia Opposed To Muslims Everywhere, Not Only in Bosnia
11. True Values of Islam Rescue Muslims From Campaigns Against Them

MUFTI CONFIRMS HAVING AIDS DOES NOT JUSTIFY SUICIDE

Page 1 carries a 100-word article in which the mufti of the republic, Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, responds to a desperate letter from a reader who has AIDS and is contemplating suicide. The mufti confirms that having AIDS does not justify suicide, because "God, the Almighty, is capable of curing all diseases and suicide is desperation regarding God's mercy and aggression against the soul, which God has forbidden."

EGYPT TO OPEN ISLAMIC CENTER IN TASHKENT

A 20-word unattributed report on page 1 says Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has stated that a decision has been made to open the largest Islamic center in Tashkent as a present from Egypt to Uzbekistan.

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI LISTS REASONS FOR VISITING NAJIB MAHFUZ

Page 1 also carries a 200-word unattributed report on a meeting between Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and renowned writer Najib Mahfuz. The report says the meeting between them was warm "despite the differences in their opinions and stances." Al-Ghazali says he had various reasons for his visit. The first is "humanitarian," the second is that he was happy that Mahfuz refused to republish his novel "The Sons of Gabalawi," and the third is because "Mahfuz announced that he respects Islam and adheres to its teachings and doctrines."

SHAYKH AL-GHAZALI INTERVIEWED ON STATE OF ISLAMIC NATION

Pages 4 and 5 are dedicated to a 2,000-word interview conducted by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf and Mustafa Yasin with Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali after he visited writer Najib Mahfuz. Asked about the crucial turning point the Islamic nation is going through, he says: The Islamic nation is divided into two extreme groups. The first one is the "group of 'enlightenment'," the members of which practically have nothing to do with religion and hardly ever go to the mosque. The other group consists of "those who, out of their stupidity, do not understand Islam, misrepresent it to others, and give it a bad reputation." They are now being called fundamentalists. On Najib Mahfuz, he says he was very angry when he received reports about the attempted murder of the writer, adding that he cannot understand the reasons for doing so. He notes that he is disgusted by atheists but realizes that every man has rights. God sanctioned a marriage between a Muslim man and a Christian or Jewish woman and ordered the man to take her to her house of worship without objection, he says. "The problem with these people," he adds, "is that they do not understand Islam." He adds: "My hatred toward atheists is great and my derision for them even greater." He argues: "I try to show people what factors of Islam are attractive to the mind. This will make people reject factors of violence that are being pinned on Islam. Islam is the religion of logic."

Asked about the state of the Islamic nation and call, al-Ghazali says: "The Islamic nation is in a strange

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situation. It talks about Islam but does not apply it. It lacks the morality of Islam and needs sound moral education based on the teachings of Islam."

The next question put to al-Ghazali asks him to explain the contradiction on the powerful spread of Islam in the West, despite campaigns against it, and the state of collapse the nation is going through. He says he has noticed Islam spreading in the West. He believes that: "Had the Islamic call possessed a sensitive mechanism to monitor the religion's spread, used clever preachers, and dispatched to the West preachers who could understand the Jewish and Christian preachers, Islam would have spread even more. However, the problem is that the Islamic nation is backward because there is a gap between it and Islam. The morals of the nation are not Islamic. It is afflicted by a mental incapacity to distinguish between the essential and nonessential performances, necessities, and luxuries, the prophet's teachings and behavior and imported inventions." The reasons, according to al-Ghazali, are because "dialogue is nonexistent among the Muslims." The dialogue he wants is based on argument, proof, and interaction of opinions. He argues that Islam is the religion of sound views. "Belief," he says, "is inborn in mankind's formulation." Muslims should talk to others and discuss matters logically with them; thus, they will be able to win many over. Asked about the role of the ulemas in guiding the nation to the correct path, he says: Some ulemas are not performing their duties properly. Others, however, are doing a very good job and "should be allowed to teach the people and discuss various matters with them." Al-Azhar should be encouraged and given wider powers and privileges.

CAIRO UNIVERSITY EASTERN STUDIES CENTER DISCUSSES ROLE

On page 10 there is a 1,000-word interview with al-Siba'i Muhammad al-Siba'i, director of the Eastern Studies Research Center at Cairo University, by Jamal Salim. He discusses the center, its history, the research it has been carrying out, and other issues. One point he stresses is the role of the center in approaching the newly independent Islamic republics of central Asia. He says: "Regrettably, Arab action came too late and was uncoordinated. It was not as strong as the action taken by the other sides that want to control these republics." Another role the center performs is to purify the heritage from various Israeli infiltrations and to ward off Israeli influences on Islam.

COLUMN BELIEVES MUSLIMS WILL AWAKEN TO COMBAT CONSPIRACY

Also on Page 10 is the "Our Lord is Generous" column by Majdi Salim entitled: "Hostility to Islam and God's Righteous Promise." He discusses the theories of the conspiracy, the evil world scheme, and Western hostility to Islam, which have been rejected by many as mere figments of imagination, perhaps for reasons of weakness, disbelief, or agentry. The writer asserts that there is a conspiracy against Islam in particular by Western secularism because it claims that Islam is a dangerous religion. However, the writer notes, "The Muslims are still in a deep sleep." But, he adds, "We know that this sleep will not last for long" and that God will extend the rope to save us. "The forces of the believers will grow until they triumph over the darkness of the unbelievers," he concludes. This is God's promise.

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION COMMON AMONG UPPER CLASS DISTRICTS

A 200-word report on page 17 notes a recent survey carried out by a female physician at 'Ayn Shams University on 400 women who attend family planning clinics in upper class districts of Cairo. The results showed that 76 percent of those women had been circumcised, 68 percent had it performed on their daughters, and 78.9 percent of circumcisions were performed by people other than doctors. The motives behind the circumcision were reported to be religious duty, a kind of cleanliness and purity for girls to "decrease their sexual desires." The study shows that women from the upper class districts perform circumcision in the same ratio as women from other districts, disproving the theory that the reason is "absence of education and cultural awareness."

RELIGIOUS AWARENESS CONVOYS ENTER PRISONS, SCHOOLS

A 200-word report on page 19 by Salah 'Abd-al-Mu'ti notes that the religious awareness convoys in Cairo started organizing campaigns, meetings, and seminars with students, youth centers, central security soldiers, and prisons. An agreement has been reached to hold four meetings with prisoners in Turah and Abu-Za'bal prisons.

SINGAPORE MUFTI WANTS SUPPORT FROM AL-AZHAR, ISLAMIC INSTITUTIONS

Page 20 features a 1,000-word interview with the mufti of Singapore by Muhammad al-Abnudi. He stresses that they enjoy their religious freedom in Singapore and calls for support from al-Azhar and Islamic institutions. He also discusses Islamic education and the teaching of Arabic.

RUSSIA OPPOSED TO MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE, NOT ONLY IN BOSNIA

An 800-word report on page 21 by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl notes that Russia is opposed to Muslims everywhere, not only in Bosnia. He argues that Russia is redeeming itself from its communist past by declaring war on the Muslims, just as it has done in Chechnya. It also hampers international efforts to resolve the conflict in Karabakh.

TRUE VALUES OF ISLAM RESCUE MUSLIMS FROM CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THEM

A 400-word article on page 20 entitled "Why is There Hostility?" by 'Adil Dayf wonders why there is such a

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fierce attack on Muslims and Islam from enemies who use all sorts of weapons. He clarifies a few things about Islam, saying: "It is the religion of forgiveness and justice embraced by millions of Muslims" and "that all civilizations, theories, and allegations established by mankind have failed." This is why there is a campaign against Islam consisting of destroying the youth through the use of drugs and sex, the most potent weapons against society. He believes that the response should be "to adhere to the true values of Islam, which are the means for rescue in an age when suffering has increased and most circumstantial theories have failed."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Asks France for Help To Transport Fighters

JN1912134994 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Lebanese sources have stated that Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has asked France to help move 2,000 fighters from Sidon to Gaza.

The sources said that 'Arafat asked the French foreign ministry to arrange for the departure of 2,000 Palestinian fighters from the Sidon and Tyre refugees camps in southern Lebanon on ships that will take them to the Gaza Port. This measures is to beef up the Palestinian police and security forces in Gaza and to contain the Islamic opposition represented in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad Movement.

'Arafat Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN2012073494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat received at noon yesterday a delegation from the U.S. Congress. The delegation was led by Tom Lantos, head of the congressional subcommittee on security and human rights. Discussions during the meeting focused on the latest developments and the peace process in the region.

President 'Arafat outlined the importance of continuing to implement the [Oslo] agreement, particularly the holding of elections. He emphasized the gravity of Israel's confiscation of lands, a move that endangers the peace process.

'Arafat Receives UNRWA Director

JN2012073894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday received Ilter Turkmen, United Nations Works and Relief Agency [UNRWA] commissioner general. Turkman was accompanied by a delegation comprised of UNRWA directors and officials in the Middle East.

The discussions during the meeting dealt with the necessary arrangements to transfer the UNRWA headquarters to Palestine. President 'Arafat and Ilter Turkmen held a closed meeting that lasted 20 minutes.

'Abbas Rules Out Amendments to Oslo Accord

MM1912144094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has held a meeting in Tunis with a number of PLO and Fatah leaders, among them PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin). The 'Arafat-'Abbas meeting is the first between them for a long time, specifically since the strain in their relations over the situation in Gaza and Jericho. Following the meeting Abu-Mazin said that it has been decided to hold a Fatah Central Committee meeting soon this month, without specifying the meeting's venue. [passage omitted]

Observers do not rule out that Fatah Central Committee members will meet in Tunis to consult over the issues preoccupying the Palestinian leadership, first and foremost Israel's attempts to amend the Oslo accord, specifically the clause relating to the redeployment of the Israeli Army's troops in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In this context Abu-Mazin stressed that the question of amending the Oslo accord is completely unacceptable. He pointed out that any Israeli attempt in this connection would set a serious precedent and would be considered backtracking on the peace process. He added: Just as the Israelis have observations about the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, we too have numerous observations about the accord. He stressed that the PLO would not allow any amendment to the accord. Abu-Mazin said: Changing any letter in the Oslo accord would open the door to endless changes, and we are not prepared to enter labyrinths. He stressed that the PLO refuses to hold the elections under the occupation. He urged the Israeli Government to fulfill its pledges.

Al-Husayni on Meeting With Consuls, Weizman

JN2012094894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file and head of the Palestinian negotiating team, will hold meetings with the consuls of foreign states at Orient House at 1000 today. With us on the line is Faysal al-Husayni who will brief us on the issues he will discuss with foreign states' consuls:

[Begin recording] [Announcer Ibrahim Milhim] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, good morning.

[Al-Husayni] Good morning.

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[Milhim] Today you are scheduled to meet with the consuls of foreign states at Orient House. What issues will you discuss with these consuls?

[Al-Husayni] From time to time we hold such meetings in Jerusalem with the consuls from different states. This time, in fact, there is more than one issue. First, in this meeting we will brief them on the meetings held at the Islamic summit and the proposals that were submitted on Jerusalem. Then, and most importantly, we will discuss the constant Israeli measures in and around Jerusalem taken in a bid to change the current status and to make the negotiations impossible.

[Milhim] Faysal al-Husayni, it has been noted recently that Israel is trying to evade meeting the requirements of peace. How would you evaluate the march of peace in the recent period?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, this evasive Israeli stand destroys and undermines all the bases of the peace process. I can say that today we are facing a real crisis in the peace process. This process is, indeed, seriously threatened. Israel should realize that the policy it is pursuing will not force us to make concessions, but rather will force us to terminate this process.

[Milhim] Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman said in Cairo today that Israel is ready to implement what was contained in the Camp David agreement on Jerusalem and to implement UN Resolution 242. What do you think of this proposal?

[Al-Husayni] Resolution 242 means the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all areas, including East Jerusalem. As regards the stipulation on Jerusalem, I do not think that there is anything on Jerusalem in Camp David except for the Israeli and Egyptian letters on Jerusalem. Talks on the future of Jerusalem should commence before the beginning of the third year; that is, in 1996 at the latest. Therefore, I do not know to what Mr. Weizman is referring in this respect.

[Milhim] He proposes that a joint Arab-Israeli municipality be established.

[Al-Husayni] This is something related to sovereignty. Sovereignty in East Jerusalem after the Israeli withdrawal will be Palestinian. As regards the municipality, there can be coordination between the two municipalities to keep the city open. But it should be clarified that sovereignty in our region should be ours.

[Milhim] What are the Palestinian alternatives to confront the Israeli attempts to evade an accurate and honest implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, first of all we should insist on not allowing any bypassing of any provision of the agreement. Second, political pressure should be applied on the domestic and foreign levels and the help of the cosponsors of the peace process should be sought. Above all, Israel should realize that this process could move the Palestinian masses, who have a role in pushing the peace process forward. If Israel does not respond to this either, it will mean that it has decided that peace is not its option.

[Milhim] It seems that there are generals in the Israeli Army who are trying to turn the tables and return things to square one.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, there is a feeling that there is an internal Israeli factor that seeks to wreck the peace process as a whole. Regrettably, so far we have not seen a definitive stand on the part of the Israeli Government that signed this agreement with us.

[Milhim] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, thank you.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you. [end recording]

Sets Conditions for 1st Plan

TA2012110994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni has said that if Israel presents the Palestinians with a timetable for withdrawing and redeploying troops in the West Bank, it will be possible to discuss a Janin-Bethlehem first plan.

He told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Palestinians are demanding a detailed timetable and will not accept what he called an enclave here or there. Al-Husayni's remarks were made after his meeting with a group of foreign consuls at Orient House. He reported to them on the condition of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria and the new neighborhoods Israel is building in East Jerusalem.

Yusuf on Arrest of Suspects in al-'Abid Murder

TA1912195694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 19 Dec 94 pp 1, 20

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza—Major General Nasr Yusuf, chief of general security in the Palestinian Authority [PA], confirmed that the Palestinian police have succeeded in arresting some Palestinians suspected of involvement in the 2 November assassination of Hani 'Abid, a leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, which is opposed to the self-rule agreement.

In an open dialogue with al-Azhar University students at a ceremony organized by the university yesterday, Maj. Gen. Yusuf said: "We have arrested some citizens whom we suspect, but it is premature to make a final judgment." He added: "It is our duty to arrest the killers of martyr Hani 'Abid." [passage omitted]

On the Filastin Mosque events, the General Security Chief disclosed that Palestinian security organs have arrested five suspects who are being interrogated. He

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said: "At the outset we had no idea about the police department and its work. We are a "Palestinian army," so we were forced to employ some policemen who used to work with the Israeli authorities."

Maj. Gen. Yusuf said that the PA has decided to reevaluate every member of the police force. He added: "We do not want suspects to serve in the police force." [passage omitted]

National Security Academy To Open in Bethlehem

TA2012105294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Dec 94 p 12

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority has completed staff work in anticipation of opening the Palestinian National Security Academy in Bethlehem.

The plans were drafted by senior PLO officers. They set down the admittance requirements, training program, and curriculum to be taught at the academy. One of the requirements will be a command of Arabic, Hebrew, and English.

Hamas Fugitive Offers Deal for Disclosure of Burial

TA1812055494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fugitive 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Husa has contacted the lawyer of the family of Ilan Sa'adon and offered to tell them where Sa'adon's body is hidden in return for the release of Palestinian prisoners. Sa'adon went missing in 1989 and is presumed to have been murdered by Hamas kidnappers. Abu-Husa is believed to have been involved in the kidnapping, but Israeli security officials say it is doubtful if he knows where the soldier was buried. The fugitive said he would fax the lawyer a list of names in the next few days of security prisoners Hamas wants released.

The latest development came after jailed Hamas leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, called on activists to reveal without preconditions where Ilan Sa'adon was buried.

Hamas Spokesman on Possibility of Military Operations

MM1912095094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Dec 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Hamas: We Will Celebrate Our Anniversary by Launching New Military Operations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas has asserted that it did not celebrate its anniversary, which was the day before yesterday, in the traditional way as other factions did on such occasions. It affirmed that it always marked the occasion in its own special way, away from the traditional ceremonial acitivities. It is expected that the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades will, as in the past three years, mount military operations to mark the occasion. Meanwhile, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas' representative in Jordan, said that "over a period of seven years, our movement has made great achievements, greater than its age would suggest, and it was able to impose itself as a Palestinian movement with a liberation plan, and established a presence acknowledged by enemies and friends."

Nazzal added that these successes were the result of considerable sacrifices by the movement which has paid a high price for them. He affirmed that Hamas was paying that price to maintain the credibility it gained over the past years and in order to develop itself and its capabilities to fulfill its strategic objectives.

On the movement's political and military aspirations in the next phase, the Hamas representative said: As far as we are concerned, the resistance is a strategy linked to the Zionist occupation of our territory. That is why the military martyrdom [suicide] operations carried by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the movement's military wing, are subject not to political considerations but to technical considerations pertaining to military action on the ground, in the sense that the escalation or de-escalation of the military operations carried out by our squads depends entirely on the factor I have mentioned.

He added: That is why the implementation of military or martyrdom operations on the occasion of the Hamas anniversary depends on the assessment of the military wing and the operations room of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Bridages, the only party empowered to do that in the field.

Hamas Urges PA To Purge Groups of Collaborators

TA1912143094 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Dec 94 pp 8, 7

[Report by Tahir al-Nunu]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called on all Islamic and nationalist forces operating in the Palestinian arena to close ranks and reinforce national unity on the basis of sublime Islam and national constants, epitomized by the need to continue action until the last Israeli soldier leaves the Palestinian territories.

In its statement, which was distributed yesterday in Gaza on occasion of the seventh anniversary of its establishment, Hamas called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to maintain a national approach in dealing with the Palestinian masses and avoid being dragged into a civil war to appease the Israeli side. Hamas stressed the need to respect the will of the

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Palestinian people and the rights of their sons to express their views, including freedom of the press.

Hamas also emphasized the importance of purging the PA's security and administrative institutions of "collaborators and plotters."

Hamas called on Rabin's government to immediately cease the campaign of detentions and repression being waged against the sons of the Palestinian people in the West Bank. It stressed that arrests and torture will only make the people more determined and resolved to continue on the path of achieving their legitimate aspirations.

Hamas attacked the voices that are calling for a halt to military action. It emphasized that this is the road to liberation.

Hamas expressed its warmest condolences to the families of martyrs and wounded, whose pure blood has watered the land of Palestine. It offered special greetings to the prisoners and detainees, foremost of all Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

Hamas Spokesman Reacts to 'Arafat Oslo Statements

JN1912154394 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 19 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to Yasir 'Arafat's statements in Oslo, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spokesman has accused the PLO leader of repeating old allegations about the Zionist enemy patronizing Hamas and making weapons available its its fighters in the West Bank. The spokesman also noted 'Arafat's contention that the movement receives assistance from certain Arab and Islamic states and groups in the United States.

Hamas is surprised that 'Arafat should make such statements and wants to make the following points:

First, such libelous statements and slurs are likely to have a detrimental impact on and even scuttle the ongoing dialogue between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. 'Arafat seems to have just that in mind as he seeks to exonerate the PA from the responsibility for the sad Friday's massacre.

Second, 'Arafat's remarks amount to a glaring breach of the partial agreement, calling for an end to mud-slinging and mutual recrimination, worked out by the mediation committee following the Gaza massacre. In that regard, the spokesman charged that the head of the PA is particularly culpable and questioned the PA's commitment to reconciliation accords.

Third, 'Arafat's statements are further evidence of the fact that the PA is hostage to the course of action charted for it by the Zionist enemy to meet Zionist security concerns at the expense of our people's aspirations and rights. 'Arafat's rabid warfare against Hamas, the mujahidin, and the resistance is a fulfillment of his obligations and pledges to Rabin and Clinton. He wants to show them that he is meeting their demands and to speed the flow of cash and international assistance.

Fourth, 'Arafat must understand that such statements, calculated as they are to bring the movement and its valiant resistance into disrepute, will not succeed in discrediting the movement and its valiant resistance or diminish mass support for it. All these slurs are certain to rebound on their authors and propagators and will only show the impotence and truth about those who swapped resistance and jihad for capitulationist accords, and decided to sign up for the Zionist project.

Islamic Jihad Figure on Status of Gulf States

NC1912083194 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine, has said that the small states of the Gulf and all the Gulf Cooperation Council member states without exception are no more than U.S. protectorates and that these countries' rulers do not act without permission from the U.S. Administration.

In an exclusive interview with our radio, Dr. al-Shiqaqi said colonialism has imposed these rulers on their peoples and on the Arab nation through violence, terrorism, and force. He noted that the Bahrain Emirate is still under the authority of British intelligence men who control the emirate and run the affairs of its police, agencies, and Interior Ministry.

He said the Arab nations in the Gulf have the right to rise, revolt, and stage a mutiny against these deformed types of capitulatory government in the Gulf. He blessed as Islamists, struggling against arrogant powers and the Zionist state for the sake of freedom, this massive movement in Bahrain and every movement in the Gulf and the region against the colonialist and his subordinates.

Activity Linked to Delay in Israeli Redeployment

TA1612153794 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 15 Dec 94 pp 3, 11

[Editorial: "Settlement and Redeployment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's leaders are continuing their intransigence with regard to implementing the article in the Oslo agreement regarding the Israeli army's redeployment outside Palestinian population centers. At the same time they are planning to carry out new settlement activity that will contribute to the encirclement of those centers. This would make their situation similar to that of some of Arab Jerusalem's neighborhoods, specifically Shu'fat and Bayt Hanina, which are encircled from all sides by settlement buildings that

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prevent the natural growth or extension of these neighborhoods to their Palestinian surroundings. As a result of this siege and its ensuing restrictions, the inhabitants of these neighborhoods will eventually be forced to migrate.

This sort of settlement activity, which is being carried out at an accelerated pace in Arab Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied territories, not only reveals the clear Israeli violations of the Oslo agreement, but also a definite intention to swallow up a major part of those territories. Using the pretext of security to justify a reluctance to implement redeployment is no more than a means to cover up the policy of annexation, Judaization, and continued occupation of territory. This is because anyone who really wants to reach a genuine settlement with the Palestinian people would not create more complications through further settlement activity. This is something that should induce the Palestinian Authority to reassess the entire situation and pressure Israel's rulers to negotiate the final stage, instead of having all this Israeli procrastination and foot-dragging.

Commanders Apologize for Attack on IDF Soldier

TA1812055094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the Sufa checkpoint, south of the Gaza Strip, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier and a Palestinian policeman have been moderately wounded. The army spokesman says the policeman provoked soldiers at the checkpoint and opened fire. One of the soldiers was shot in the leg. Other soldiers returned fire and wounded the Palestinian policeman. The soldier was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, while the policeman was transferred to a hospital in Gaza.

Palestinian police commanders have expressed their regret over the incident. They said Yasir 'Arafat extended his apology and said the policeman would be severely punished.

Israeli and Palestinian officers discussed the incident last night. The joint security committee is also due to address the issue during its meeting today.

Commander: Police Numbers Exceed Cairo Agreement

TA1812081194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Dec 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Cairo agreement stipulates that the Palestinian police will comprise 9,000 policemen at the most, but the actual size of the Palestinian police is apparently 12,000 men. The extra 3,000 policemen are currently at the police training camps in Gaza and Jericho.

Amin al-Hindi's General Security Service trains its officers at the Ansar-2 installation, Force 17 trains its members at the former IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, and the regular police train their troops at the Jabalyah refugee camp. Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, commander of the Palestinian General Security Forces in the Gaza Strip, confirmed in an interview with the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-QUDS that the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho comprises 12,000 men and that the force was increased in anticipation of the police deployment in the West Bank immediately following the IDF redeployment. Al-Majayidah further reveals that to enable the troops to deploy in the West Bank, efforts are being made to obtain equipment and vehicles in Spain and other European countries. [passage omitted]

Senior PA Officials Receive Entry Documents

TA2012053494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is issuing special documents to senior officials of the Palestinian Authority which permit them to cross the Green Line without a security check.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 12 such documents have already been issued and dozens more will be distributed soon.

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Algeria

Government Spokesman Holds News Conference

Addresses Presidential Elections

LD1912163294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ahmed Attaf, official government spokesman and secretary of state for Maghreb affairs, held a news conference this morning at the Foreign Ministry. He replied to questions from national and international journalists which focused mainly on the head of state's decision to organize presidential elections before the end of 1995, on the fate of the national dialogue, on the Berber question, and on other national, Maghreb, and international issues. Abdelkader Djeridi reports:

[Djeridi] Ahmed Attaf's first few replies were to questions on preparations for the presidential elections. Ahmed Attaf said that preparations are progressing normally and the elections will be held on the date set by the head of state. He said the government has been eager to provide the material and human resources and assure the legal provisions for holding the presidential elections on the date set for them. Ahmed Attaf stressed:

[Begin Attaf recording] Preparations for the presidential elections are under way and they are progressing normally. The legal provisions for holding the presidential elections are being prepared. [passage omitted]

There is also a third area; the administrative area. Recently, I noticed statistics showing that hundreds of departments are without a head of administration. I would like to give you the official and correct figures. Twelve departments are without a head of administration, and 178 local authorities are without a mayor. These figures should be viewed bearing in mind that there are 1,544 municipalities in our country. These are the correct and official figures. [passage omitted]

Efforts are being made to appoint heads of departments. Regarding local authorities, as you know, a large number of the 178 local authorities were destroyed. These local authorities have to be rebuilt before mayors are appointed. [end recording]

[Djeridi] Regarding the publication of a draft law on elections in a national newspaper, Attaf queried the source of the draft law and categorically denied its authenticity. He confirmed that the newspaper has been suspended indefinitely. However, some sources say that the suspension is for about 40 days. The issue concerns the daily L'OPINION.

In reply to a question about the problem of holding presidential elections after the sabotage and arson to which many municipalities have been subjected, and the destruction of many electoral lists, Ahmed Attaf stressed that copies of all electoral lists are held at municipalities and the same applies at the provincial level. He said the Justice Ministry also holds copies and, therefore, the issue does not pose a problem.

Regarding the organization of electoral lists, Ahmed Attaf said the process will be organized in three stages to avoid previous mistakes. The process will operate at the local, regional, and then at the national level. Computer technology will be used to avoid future rigging of the lists.

Regarding the recent statements made by the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] leader, in which he called on the United Nations to send an envoy to settle the Algerian crisis, the government's official spokesman reaffirmed that the state and the people reject the internationalization of the Algerian crisis.

He expressed regret at the statement made by [FFS leader] Ait Ahmed, who fought against foreign patronage during the liberation war and is now trying to bring the Algerian crisis under foreign patronage.

Regarding the national dialogue, Attaf said that the door is never closed to the parties which want to engage in dialogue. He did not make a specific reference to a forthcoming round of talks or to a meeting to resume the dialogue.

Concerning his assessment of the security situation, he said that the security forces are in control of the situation.

On Algeria's participation in the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca, he said that the summit led to very positive results, particularly the summit's endorsement of the code of conduct which Algeria proposed at the previous summit in Dakar.

On the talks held by the head of government and by other Algerian officials with their Maghreb counterparts, and the prospects for the normalization of relations between Morocco and Algeria which have been under strain for a few months, Ahmed Attaf said that the talks proceeded in the right direction and the issue of normalizing relations with Morocco is being studied by the two sides to fulfill the conditions required for that in order to avoid past mistakes.

He said it is unlikely that a summit meeting will be held between President Liamine Zeroual and the Moroccan king. There has been talk about such a meeting taking place prior to the Maghreb summit in Algeria, which has been postponed until March 1995. In this regard, he said that the reason for the postponement of the Maghreb summit which was due to be held at the end of this month in Algiers is due to delays in holding the member countries' ministerial meetings. He said that Algeria suggested that the summit be held in January. However, it was postponed until March, otherwise it would have coincided with the holy month of Ramadan.

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The Amazigh issue was also among the points covered at today's press conference and Ahmed Attaf reiterated the government's sincere intention to find a final solution to the question within the framework of the national commission chaired by Mokdad Sifi. Attaf said also that the dialogue between the government and the Berber Cultural Movement is continuous.

Confirms Price Liberalization

LD1912201094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Concerning the rise in prices on the widely consumed commodities, Ahmed Attaf revealed that prices will be liberalized as of 1 January 1995.

[Begin Attaf recording] As of 1 January, our internal and external trade will be free. This is first and foremost represented by liberalizing prices, including basic commodities. In return, a first measure has been taken in consultation with partners from unions and from private and public enterprises. Within the framework of this consultation, it has been agreed to raise wages gradually until 1995 [as heard]. The second measure will be to reduce the burden on the weak section of our society. There is the so-called social network. Even if it were said that this social network is unsuitable, I would like to stress here that the type of social security we have obtained is one of the most developed in comparison with other countries that have entered into agreements similar to the one we have concluded with the IMF and the World Bank. [end recording]

TV Assails 'Dubious Media Campaign'

LD1912224894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The intensification of the activities of the Algerian security forces has, unfortunately, been accompanied recently by a quasi media campaign, or what could be described as an exaggerated interest in the situation in Algeria, by foreign media issuing dubious reports. These reports raise more than a single question on the aims of such a campaign, particularly since the international community has now realized the dangers of extremism and agreed on the need to help Algeria. Obligations taken by international financial organizations to ease the terms of their loans to Algeria represent a proof that those organizations are convinced that Algeria is pursuing the right course of reform, with the government opening the door for restoring legitimacy to institutions by organizing presidential elections.

This media campaign is, unfortunately, being exacerbated by some Algerian personalities who have preferred to move to safe places and speak in a strange manner about there being no security in Algeria. These personalities even go to the extent of asking, through foreign media, for foreign intervention in Algeria. Despite the difficult situation it is currently experiencing, Algeria is able to provide a scope for expression through its media and is also able to provide time and resources for those who are, indeed, looking for a way out of Algeria's crisis. Newspapers and other media channels are open to any idea or opinion that would contribute to taking the country out of the crisis.

The dubious media campaign recently waged by hands from overseas is a part of a plan, premeditated by Algeria's enemies, aimed at forcing Algeria to its knees. The Rome meeting was one of the many aspects of this plan. Now that everyone realizes that the battle is not only being waged in the political, economic and public security arena, that it is clearly being fought in the public media arena as well, all Algerians—wherever they are—are obliged to contribute all what they can in order to unmask these plans at home and abroad if, indeed, they want to protect and preserve Algeria.

Authorities Suspend L'OPINION for 40 Days

LD1912191694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper L'OPINION has been suspended by a government decision for 40 days. The decision to suspend the newspaper came into effect yesterday, Sunday.

Report on Government Plan To Crush Islamists

JN1912204694 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Dec 94 pp 24-26

[Report by al-Tahir Hammad in Algiers]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since the beginning of November, Algeria has been witnessing an unprecedented all-out war by the [Algerian] Army against the strongholds of the armed groups. Within this war, the Army has carried out a large-scale combing operation using warplanes and napalm bombs, and has achieved great victories. However, what has happened so far is only the first chapter of the strategy aimed at deciding the situation. The military command which prepared this strategy has received the green light to go ahead with it. In this report, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI discloses all the details of this strategy aimed at liquidating armed fundamentalists, as well as the deals concluded by the [Algerian] Government to obtain very sophisticated weapons to liquidate the armed groups in the first half of next year. These deals are confirmed by foreign intelligence organs which have seen these weapons. For their part, the extremists have prepared a plan to retaliate in a comprehensive war by implementing a scorched earth policy, assassinations, and random bombings.

Commenting on the speech delivered by Algerian President Lamine Zeroual on the 40th anniversary of the Algerian revolution, which was launched on 1 November 1954, an Algerian diplomat said: The second Algerian

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war began also on 1 November, 40 years after the first war. In his speech, the Algerian president announced the failure of dialogue between the authorities and Islamists and noted that the presidential elections would take place before the end of 1995. [passage omitted]

Observers affirm that the recent dialogue between the government and the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has failed because the government discovered that Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj no longer have any control over the armed men and that their imprisonment not only resulted in keeping them out of the arena, but also in them being replaced by new leaders who do not recognize the leadership of the arrested shaykhs.

Information available to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI confirms that a majority of the military command was never convinced about holding a dialogue or incorporating the Islamists into a quasi-governmental structure along lines of the Sudanese-model. Information also confirms that the military command distanced itself from President Zeroual, who was left alone to conduct the dialogue with Madani and Belhadj and persuade them to reach a truce and issue a statement renouncing violence. The objective was to create differences and divisions within the Islamic movements. Meanwhile, ranking generals such as Khaled Nezzar, Ismail Amari, and Mohamed ("Tewfik") Mediene were preparing a military plan to deal a fatal blow to the Islamic groups, and to liquidate them. Within the framework of this plan, General Nezzar visited Washington where a team within the U.S. Administration, specifically the National Security Council, supports the military men. Amari headed for Paris, while other military delegations left for Western and Eastern European countries, including Russia, to conclude deals to purchase sophisticated weapons. Such weapons will strengthen the Algerian security forces in waging a comprehensive and successful war that could liquidate the armed groups before March 1995, after which, a date will be set for the presidential elections which President Zeroual stands a good chance of winning.

This military plan calls for mobilizing all the Armed Forces, estimated at 136,000 soldiers, and launching the largest campaign against the strongholds of the armed groups throughout the country. Within this framework, light weapons have been distributed to a large number of "loyal" citizens while semi-military groups have been formed to work undercover. These groups will assassinate and execute armed fundamentalists and those suspected of affiliation with or supporting the armed groups.

Prior to November, many ships arrived at the Port of Algiers loaded with sophisticated weapons and military equipment purchased from Russia, Poland, Germany, Italy, the United States, France, and other countries.

Until last week, these ships were seen unloading their cargoes at some docks amid strict security measures. Meanwhile, a tucked-away runway in the Houari Boumedienne Airport has been receiving, between 3 and 4 o'clock every day, cargo planes from which weapons and military equipment are unloaded. These weapons and military equipment are swiftly moved to the military units which have been deployed throughout the country, particularly in the capital and its suburbs. [passage omitted]

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has also learned that the Algerian intelligence service has sent hit squads to European nations where Islamic networks pursuing arms deals and arms smuggling to Algeria are active. Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, and Italy are some of the countries where these networks are active. The hit squads are charged with the mission of liquidating these networks' leaders in order to stop arms deliveries from reaching the fundamentalists.

There is no doubt that advocates of liquidating the Islamists now make up the majority among Algeria's military high command and regional commanders. They face the option of killing or being killed, and to advance their objective have adopted an iron-fist policy.

For their part, the armed groups have decided to counter the official liquidationist line by following a blind plan of bloody violence and all-out war in most parts of the nation. The Islamic groups are said to have devised a scorched earth policy of their own that does not limit itself to ambushes against the armed forces but incorporates assassination of state officers and government supporters, intellectuals, physicians, engineers, as well as the bombing of schools and government establishments and railroads. The Islamists' new plan envisages increased action in all areas, including attacks on the Algerian economy's infrastructure such as oil and gas extraction installations and the assassination of foreign nationals, particularly those engaged in this sector with a view to forcing these companies from Algeria, excluding the Americans and American firms, which are now playing a key role. The Islamists have decided to eliminate top-echelon officials if only to prove that, despite the fact that they are targeted for repression and manhunts, they are still a force to be reckoned with. The Islamists have drawn up plans to spread so-called blind terror involving detonating rigged cars and time bombs at government establishments and public places to inflict a high death toll and so drive the populace to lose hope in the government guaranteeing it any meaningful degree of protection. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has had access to information that the armed groups have braced for a bloodier war with the security forces, and are tending to rely on their foreign-based networks to procure more advanced weapons, including anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. European nations have beefed up their efforts on monitoring the arms smuggling networks within their borders. To counter that, the Islamists are trying to purchase arms directly from East European nations or through Libya and the desert in the south. Arms smugglers have been particularly active recently in dealing

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Confirms Price Liberalization

LD1912201094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Concerning the rise in prices on the widely consumed commodities, Ahmed Attaf revealed that prices will be liberalized as of 1 January 1995.

[Begin Attaf recording] As of 1 January, our internal and external trade will be free. This is first and foremost represented by liberalizing prices, including basic commodities. In return, a first measure has been taken in consultation with partners from unions and from private and public enterprises. Within the framework of this consultation, it has been agreed to raise wages gradually until 1995 [as heard]. The second measure will be to reduce the burden on the weak section of our society. There is the so-called social network. Even if it were said that this social network is unsuitable, I would like to stress here that the type of social security we have obtained is one of the most developed in comparison with other countries that have entered into agreements similar to the one we have concluded with the IMF and the World Bank. [end recording]

TV Assails 'Dubious Media Campaign'

LD1912224894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The intensification of the activities of the Algerian security forces has, unfortunately, been accompanied recently by a quasi media campaign, or what could be described as an exaggerated interest in the situation in Algeria, by foreign media issuing dubious reports. These reports raise more than a single question on the aims of such a campaign, particularly since the international community has now realized the dangers of extremism and agreed on the need to help Algeria. Obligations taken by international financial organizations to ease the terms of their loans to Algeria represent a proof that those organizations are convinced that Algeria is pursuing the right course of reform, with the government opening the door for restoring legitimacy to institutions by organizing presidential elections.

This media campaign is, unfortunately, being exacerbated by some Algerian personalities who have preferred to move to safe places and speak in a strange manner about there being no security in Algeria. These personalities even go to the extent of asking, through foreign media, for foreign intervention in Algeria. Despite the difficult situation it is currently experiencing, Algeria is able to provide a scope for expression through its media and is also able to provide time and resources for those who are, indeed, looking for a way out of Algeria's crisis. Newspapers and other media channels are open to any idea or opinion that would contribute to taking the country out of the crisis.

The dubious media campaign recently waged by hands from overseas is a part of a plan, premeditated by Algeria's enemies, aimed at forcing Algeria to its knees. The Rome meeting was one of the many aspects of this plan. Now that everyone realizes that the battle is not only being waged in the political, economic and public security arena, that it is clearly being fought in the public media arena as well, all Algerians—wherever they are—are obliged to contribute all what they can in order to unmask these plans at home and abroad if, indeed, they want to protect and preserve Algeria.

Authorities Suspend L'OPINION for 40 Days

LD1912191694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper L'OPINION has been suspended by a government decision for 40 days. The decision to suspend the newspaper came into effect yesterday, Sunday.

Report on Government Plan To Crush Islamists

JN1912204694 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Dec 94 pp 24-26

[Report by al-Tahir Hammad in Algiers]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Since the beginning of November, Algeria has been witnessing an unprecedented all-out war by the [Algerian] Army against the strongholds of the armed groups. Within this war, the Army has carried out a large-scale combing operation using warplanes and napalm bombs, and has achieved great victories. However, what has happened so far is only the first chapter of the strategy aimed at deciding the situation. The military command which prepared this strategy has received the green light to go ahead with it. In this report, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI discloses all the details of this strategy aimed at liquidating armed fundamentalists, as well as the deals concluded by the [Algerian] Government to obtain very sophisticated weapons to liquidate the armed groups in the first half of next year. These deals are confirmed by foreign intelligence organs which have seen these weapons. For their part, the extremists have prepared a plan to retaliate in a comprehensive war by implementing a scorched earth policy, assassinations, and random bombings.

Commenting on the speech delivered by Algerian President Lamine Zeroual on the 40th anniversary of the Algerian revolution, which was launched on 1 November 1954, an Algerian diplomat said: The second Algerian

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The Amazigh issue was also among the points covered at today's press conference and Ahmed Attaf reiterated the government's sincere intention to find a final solution to the question within the framework of the national commission chaired by Mokdad Sifi. Attaf said also that the dialogue between the government and the Berber Cultural Movement is continuous.

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war began also on 1 November, 40 years after the first war. In his speech, the Algerian president announced the failure of dialogue between the authorities and Islamists and noted that the presidential elections would take place before the end of 1995. [passage omitted]

Observers affirm that the recent dialogue between the government and the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has failed because the government discovered that Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj no longer have any control over the armed men and that their imprisonment not only resulted in keeping them out of the arena, but also in them being replaced by new leaders who do not recognize the leadership of the arrested shaykhs.

Information available to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI confirms that a majority of the military command was never convinced about holding a dialogue or incorporating the Islamists into a quasi-governmental structure along lines of the Sudanese-model. Information also confirms that the military command distanced itself from President Zeroual, who was left alone to conduct the dialogue with Madani and Belhadj and persuade them to reach a truce and issue a statement renouncing violence. The objective was to create differences and divisions within the Islamic movements. Meanwhile, ranking generals such as Khaled Nezzar, Ismail Amari, and Mohamed ("Tewfik") Mediene were preparing a military plan to deal a fatal blow to the Islamic groups, and to liquidate them. Within the framework of this plan, General Nezzar visited Washington where a team within the U.S. Administration, specifically the National Security Council, supports the military men. Amari headed for Paris, while other military delegations left for Western and Eastern European countries, including Russia, to conclude deals to purchase sophisticated weapons. Such weapons will strengthen the Algerian security forces in waging a comprehensive and successful war that could liquidate the armed groups before March 1995, after which, a date will be set for the presidential elections which President Zeroual stands a good chance of winning.

This military plan calls for mobilizing all the Armed Forces, estimated at 136,000 soldiers, and launching the largest campaign against the strongholds of the armed groups throughout the country. Within this framework, light weapons have been distributed to a large number of "loyal" citizens while semi-military groups have been formed to work undercover. These groups will assassinate and execute armed fundamentalists and those suspected of affiliation with or supporting the armed groups.

Prior to November, many ships arrived at the Port of Algiers loaded with sophisticated weapons and military equipment purchased from Russia, Poland, Germany, Italy, the United States, France, and other countries.

Until last week, these ships were seen unloading their cargoes at some docks amid strict security measures. Meanwhile, a tucked-away runway in the Houari Boumedienne Airport has been receiving, between 3 and 4 o'clock every day, cargo planes from which weapons and military equipment are unloaded. These weapons and military equipment are swiftly moved to the military units which have been deployed throughout the country, particularly in the capital and its suburbs. [passage omitted]

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has also learned that the Algerian intelligence service has sent hit squads to European nations where Islamic networks pursuing arms deals and arms smuggling to Algeria are active. Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, and Italy are some of the countries where these networks are active. The hit squads are charged with the mission of liquidating these networks' leaders in order to stop arms deliveries from reaching the fundamentalists.

There is no doubt that advocates of liquidating the Islamists now make up the majority among Algeria's military high command and regional commanders. They face the option of killing or being killed, and to advance their objective have adopted an iron-fist policy.

For their part, the armed groups have decided to counter the official liquidationist line by following a blind plan of bloody violence and all-out war in most parts of the nation. The Islamic groups are said to have devised a scorched earth policy of their own that does not limit itself to ambushes against the armed forces but incorporates assassination of state officers and government supporters, intellectuals, physicians, engineers, as well as the bombing of schools and government establishments and railroads. The Islamists' new plan envisages increased action in all areas, including attacks on the Algerian economy's infrastructure such as oil and gas extraction installations and the assassination of foreign nationals, particularly those engaged in this sector with a view to forcing these companies from Algeria, excluding the Americans and American firms, which are now playing a key role. The Islamists have decided to eliminate top-echelon officials if only to prove that, despite the fact that they are targeted for repression and manhunts, they are still a force to be reckoned with. The Islamists have drawn up plans to spread so-called blind terror involving detonating rigged cars and time bombs at government establishments and public places to inflict a high death toll and so drive the populace to lose hope in the government guaranteeing it any meaningful degree of protection. AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has had access to information that the armed groups have braced for a bloodier war with the security forces, and are tending to rely on their foreign-based networks to procure more advanced weapons, including anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. European nations have beefed up their efforts on monitoring the arms smuggling networks within their borders. To counter that, the Islamists are trying to purchase arms directly from East European nations or through Libya and the desert in the south. Arms smugglers have been particularly active recently in dealing

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with fundamentalist networks in Niger, Mali, or across Sudan through Libya. [passage omitted]

It remains an interesting question whether Lieutenant General Amari will succeed in liquidating the armed groups and finishing them militarily now when earlier attempts have failed. Those who are close to Amari answer that the Armed Forces have been given the go-ahead to declare full-scale war against the armed groups and to use every military means at their disposal, adding that the results will be seen before long. Supporters of the lieutenant general add that the expected arrival of a new delivery of advanced weapons within weeks should make it possible to achieve definitive victory and give President Zeroual an opportunity to call presidential elections by June 1995.

Pessimists remind the liquidationist camp that the 40,000 troops of the special units they count on are not managing to hold the areas they seize from the Islamists. They add that France mobilized some 400,000 troops in 1962 but to no avail, indicating the difficulty in holding the military together in an all-out war of this kind. The liquidationists emphasize that the danger of the military unraveling is being overstated and that the Alerian people are beginning to resent the steep price exacted by the armed groups. They maintain that the armed groups will be dealt an extremely painful blow sufficient to force moderate Islamists back to the negotiation table on the military's terms.

Security Forces Hit Tiaret Hideout

LD1912201994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A security services statement said that, after carrying out search operations, security forces have been able to locate a hideout in which terrorists had held a family in Tiaret. Security forces were able to free the hostages and eliminate the five terrorists.

Egypt

Mubarak, Israeli President Hold Private Talks

NC1912170794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1641 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Israeli President Ezer Weizman held a private round of talks at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this evening. They discussed recent peace developments in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The Israeli president earlier visited the Unknown Soldier's Monument and the late President Anwar al-Sadat's Tomb and laid wreaths on them.

Hold Another Meeting

NC2012101694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Israeli President Ezer Weizman held another meeting at the Presidential Palace this morning. Weizman arrived in Cairo yesterday on a three-day visit to Egypt.

Mubarak To Continue Arab Reconciliation Efforts

JN1912132694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-HAYAH has learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will continue his contacts with a number of Arab leaders in order to clear the Arab atmosphere and overcome current differences with the aim of realizing comprehensive reconciliation based on frankness and open talk, for which he called in his speech at the Islamic summit held in Casablanca recently. [passage omitted]

It seems that Cairo is following a step-by-step approach, interpreting Mubarak's statements in which he said attaining reconciliation needs time. This was considered by observers in the Egyptian capital as a delay of any effort toward reconciliation.

In this context, Egypt asked Iraq to make adequate steps to serve as a basis for efforts toward easing the siege imposed on it. This was done at a meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Iraqi counterpart Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in Casablanca on the sidelines of the Casablanca summit.

Cairo expects Baghdad to embark on steps that manifest a commitment to Security Council resolutions, especially concerning ending the problem of Kuwaiti prisoners and prisoners from other nationalities. [passage omitted]

Egyptian diplomatic sources said Musa's visit to Riyadh last month to convey an urgent message from President Mubarak to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, primarily sought to explore the possibilities of success of efforts to realize Arab reconciliation.

In the same context, efforts were made to end the coolness in Egyptian-Jordanian relations due to Cairo's reservations about the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty and Amman's acceptance of the principle of renting land and the continued presence of some Israeli settlements on its territories. This led to the postponement of meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanain Joint Committee, which should have been convened then, (the last committee meeting was held in Amman two days before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait) through the exchange of messages between Egyptian and Jordanian Prime Ministers 'Atif Sudqi and 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

The Egyptian sources said Musa tried during the Islamic ministerial conference in Casablanca to reconcile the PLO and Jordanian positions on the resolution concerning Jerusalem, and proposed a compromise formula that does not anger any of the two parties.

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Paper Says Citizen Arrested for Spying for Israel

NC2012120894 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 14 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A citizen from the village of Naj' al-'Isawiyah in Markaz Asyut has been arrested on a charge of spying for Israel. A modern communication system was found in his possession.

The citizen spent a year in Jordan before returning to his village. It is believed that the Mosad recruited him in Jordan.

Libya's al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly To Visit Cairo

NC1912150394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1418 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Informed Arab sources reported in Cairo today that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, will visit Cairo before the end of the year. During the visit, for which no specific date has been set, Col. al-Qadhdhafi will discuss with President Husni Mubarak international developments and Arab ties, in addition to the relationship between the two countries.

Somalia's Aidid Expected To Pay Visit

MM1912153094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Diplomatic sources in Cairo expect Mohamed Farah Aidid, leader of the Somali National Alliance [SNA], to visit Cairo within the next two weeks.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is expected to receive the SNA leader and the delegation accompanying him in the framework of Egypt's efforts to prevent a severe deterioration in the situation in Somalia.

Arab political sources have said that this visit is the culmination of the contacts made by Egypt, most recent of which is President Mubarak's message to Aidid, which was conveyed by Egypt's Ambassador to Somalia Ibrahim Sha'ban. It reflected Egypt's full desire to restore stability and security in Somalia and the need to settle internal disputes and splits.

The sources did not rule out that numerous alternatives could be proposed during the Egyptian-Somali talks to settle internal conditions in Somalia and call for convening a new Somali reconciliation meeting in which all parties to the dispute would participate. This is in addition to Cairo's willingness to be a venue for this meeting or to participate in it if it is held somewhere else.

Aidid is also expected to meet with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to hold a new round of talks on developments in the deteriorating situation in Somalia.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will also receive a report on recent developments and on conditions of the international forces there.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Vote Against UN Resolution

NC2012071994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the U.S. stance adopted by U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration in deciding to vote against the resolution issued by the UN General Assembly asking Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

In its comment for today, the newspaper said that by taking such a stance, the United States has, with its own hands, destroyed the bases of its credibility, not only among the Arab countries, but in the eyes of the world. Washington has revealed the truth behind its fake claims that it is a neutral mediator in the peace process in the Middle East, never mind the claim that it is a basic partner in this process.

The newspaper added that the only explanation that can be given for the U.S. Administration's refusal to approve this resolution is that it clearly rejects Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the UN principles. More dangerous is that it raises strong doubts about its desire to help remove the obstacles before the peace march in the Middle East.

The newspaper clarified that by behaving in this way, which no one expected of a party that claims to be a full partner in the peace process, the Clinton administration has destroyed all confidence in its position regarding realizing a comprehensive and real peace in the Middle East.

Iraq Reportedly Requests Mediation With Gulf States

NC2012092394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has officially asked Egypt to intercede with the Gulf states to define their conditions to ease the prevailing tension between Baghdad and the Gulf capitals. Baghdad is seeking to lift the international embargo imposed on Iraq. Diplomatic sources have affirmed that Saddam Husayn asked Moroccan King Hassan II to persuade President Mubarak to mediate between Iraq and the Gulf states.

Mahfuz Attacker Tells of Plan To Kill Mubarak

NC1912141394 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec 19 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces foiled a bid by Islamic militants to kill President Husni Mubarak when they rounded up suspects accused of involvement in an attack on author Najib Mahfuz, judicial officials said here Monday.

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One of those detained, Muhammad al-Mahallawi, told military prosecutors that the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah fundamentalist group planned to fire RPG rockets at the presidential motorcade from a shop they were to rent near Mubarak's residence.

Al-Mahallawi said he had joined a group of militants who had started negotiating terms for renting the shop while another group was responsible for obtaining the rockets and explosives.

The plot was scuppered when one of the militants in charge of planning it was arrested.

Mahallawi is among 16 militants on trial for the attempted murder of Nobel prize-winning author Mahfuz, who was stabbed in the neck outside his Cairo home on October 14.

"An alternative plan to assassinate the Egyptian president had been drawn up," al-Mahallawi told the prosecutors. "It involved a six-man suicide attack on President Mubarak's motorcade."

Police said Mahallawi was a close associate of the al-Jama'ah's former military chief Tal'at Yasin Hammam, who was shot dead by police in April.

Interior Ministry Source: Farm Worker Shot, Killed

NC1812073694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2328 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—A citizen died tonight after he was shot by unknown assailants on the Bulos farming estate in the village of Tandah in al-Minya Governorate's Mallawi district.

An Interior Ministry security source announced that while agricultural laborer Nashid Sadiq Ibrahim, 42, was standing in front of his house, unknown assailants opened fire on him, killing him and wounding his son Ashraf Sadiq Ibrahim, who was standing nearby. The culprits fled.

Senior officials of Al-Minya Security Department, detectives from other departments, and forensic experts left for the scene of the attack. The police are trying to locate the culprits and the Prosecutor's Office has been notified to start an investigation.

Minister Discusses al-Minya Incidents, Security

NC2012101394 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Dec 94 p 5

[Interview with Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi by correspondents from national and party papers at the Interior Ministry on 13 December]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] What is the truth about security in al-Minya and what is your comment on reports by some opposition papers about the violent security measures being taken there, which affect normal citizens in the governorate?

[Al-Alfi] I can set everyone's mind at ease by saying that the security forces are operating in a scientific and well-planned manner. They are making progress in combating all kinds of crimes based on public security being an indivisible whole, be the issue political, criminal, or economic. Many successes have been achieved. In these fields, the initiative will remain in the hands of the security men. I confirm that security in al-Minya is reassuring. The incidents that take place happen only because security men are hunting down the elements of terrorism all the time, day and night. Again I confirm that the initiative is in the hands of the security men, who are trying to put an end to lawlessness.

Regarding reports about the security measures there, I can say that we consider citizens there in all our security activity. Citizens also have a great duty to help the security men gather information and confront every crime that takes place. The truth is that these terrorists have committed excesses in parts of al-Minya. The security forces were forced to confront them and protect the citizens targeted by these crimes. When we impose a curfew in a particular place it does not last long. Everyone has been following the continuous successes and positive efforts confirming the containment of this terrorist phenomenon.

[Correspondent] A while ago you declared that people belonging to the banned Muslim Brotherhood were arrested. The details about this group, which was involved in terrorist activities, were not revealed.

[Al-Alfi] Those who were arrested are now appearing before the prosecution. We must maintain secrecy on such issues in the interest of the investigation. The prosecution imposed such secrecy out of its concern for the investigation. Soon all the results of the investigation will be announced, after the prosecution ends its investigation.

[Correspondent] What is the story behind reports about weapons taken from an arms depot in Upper Egypt?

[Al-Alfi] The story is that during 1989, some weapons seized in particular cases, such as those concerning the ownership of weapons, were stolen. Most of these weapons were returned. An investigation was carried out into this incident and one of the officials responsible for it was taken to court and an order was issued against him. In addition, periodic spot inspections are being carried out on all the arms depots in various parts of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Leadership in Abi Salim

LD1412165694 Tripoli JANA in English 1428 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli al-Kanun [December] 14 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Announcing in

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a loud voice that they are more solid, stronger and more committed to the revolution and the leader and that their belief is deeper in confronting evil and that they are more capable of continuing the build-up of the Jamahiriyah the exemplary and the ideal, and in re-affirmation of their absolute commitment to the thought of the revolution and the pledge to work towards consolidating people's authority and in re-newal of the pledge of allegiance to the leader and announcing the readiness for the challenge and consolidation and the eternal association with the leader and the masses.

The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] met the popular leaderships in Abi Salim which confirmed in their clamour that they are proud at the presence of the leader among them as a lofty symbol of pride and dignity in the face of all attempts which are seeking to undermine the achievements of the Arab Libyan people and confirming that neither the blockade nor western threats will make them deviate from going forward on the road to consolidating popular power.

The leader of the revolution spoke to the popular leaderships in Abi Salim clarified the tasks and responsibilities cast on the shoulders of these leaderships in mobilising the masses to confront the enemies of the nation and to consolidate people's power, the power of everyone.

The popular leaderships presented a bouquet of flowers to the leader of the revolution as a symbol of faithfulness and loyalty and expression of the eternal association with the creator of its victories, the achiever of its freedom and its dignity.

The popular leaderships in Abi Salim delivered a welcome speech to the leader in which they renewed their pledge of allegiance and their loyalty to the leader the symbol of their dignity and pride.

The speech of the popular leaderships highlighted the pride of the popular leaderships at the presence of the leader amongst them as a lofty symbol standing solidly in dignity and pride against all desperate attempts which try to undermine the thought and innovativeness in leading the Arab masses and the universality towards freedom and liberation.

The popular leaderships in Abi Salim reaffirmed that the leader is the hope sought by the masses of the Arab from the ocean to the Gulf particularly at this evil time, where souls are collapsing and where the cowardly have aligned themselves to an association with the nation's enemy and are forsaking the nation's land and honour and hurry towards defeatist and capitualtionist compromises and rush towards recognising Israel forgetting the sacrifices offered by the Arab nation.

During their meeting the popular leadership in Abi Salim offered the programme of action and a collection of papers, published works and research on some local issues and ways of solving the problems which had been prepared by some qualified leaderships in Abi Salim the proposals included an economic study to establish a local bank consisting of a local share of 51 percent and commercial banks share of 49 percent to offer loans and facilities for industrial, agricultural and services partnerships investments in the area. It also included the establishment of an industrial agricultural investment corporation, the establishment of a contracting company, and various local projects.

The papers presented by the experts in Abi Salim with the guidance of popular leaderships indicate the start in the correct direction for the implementation of the revolutionary programme assigned for popular leaderships in every area.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Russian Ambassador Over Chechnya

LD1512140394 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution received the Russian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and handed him a message to the Russian leadership concerning the situation in Chechnya. In the message the brother leader says: At a time when we refrain from interfering in Russia's domestic affairs and from looking at what is now going on in Chechnya from a political point of view, we however, on behalf of the world Islamic popular command, are looking at what is happening there in the context of the concern felt by the rest of the Muslims such as the Tatars and Caucasus Muslims for what Muslims in Chechnya are being subjected to. We are also eager to see Russia's interest and unity preserved, and the Chechnya question not being tackled as in Yugoslavia—leading to a conflict between Muslims and non-Muslims on a large-scale, a matter that would threaten Russia's unity.

During his audience with the Russian ambassador, the brother leader also warned that the invasion and killing of Muslims in Chechnya might lead to the collapse of relations between Russia and the Islamic world, and we are keen to see these relations maintained. It is also feared that this would harm the relationship between Muslims and the Orthodox Christians—two religions closer to each other than to other religions—and we are also eager to see this relationship maintained.

The brother leader of the revolution affirmed the readiness of the Great Jamahiriyah and the World Islamic Popular Command to undertake any action likely to avert any disaster between the two sides, and he underlined the fact that the World Islamic Popular Command was now facing Islamic pressure and concern due to the fear of seeing the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina repeated.

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Daily on Return of 7 Million Palestinians

LD1412154394 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 14 Dec—The AL-SHAMS newspaper has published in it's issue today an article by the writer 'Ali 'Abd-al-Latif entitled "The return of 7 millions, and not 20 people only" in its "With the Events" corner, the following is its text:

AL-QUDS newspaper, published in London, has published an editorial in which it talked about what it called: The tragedy of 20 Palestinians at the crossing point on the imaginary border between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

First of all we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the writer of the editorial for his objectivity and his caring concern about the revolution in the Jamahiriyah [Libya]. [passage omitted]

We need not remind the editorial's author of all that the Jamahiriyah has been and is still being exposed to for the sake of Palestine, including attempts by the West to punish our people and put them under siege because of their firm stance in support of Palestine.

The writer of the AL-QUDS editorial overlooked the revolution's password on the day it broke out. He neglected to make a long-term political analysis of the situation on the basis of the firm principled stance of encouraging Palestinians to return to their homeland and mobilize them into a united force in the territory of their forefathers and among their orange groves so that they would not leave a vacuum for the Israelis, who would use every method of repression and expulsion to empty the land of its inhabitants to become a land without people.

We are well aware that some of our Palestinian brothers would be hurt. This is painful and makes our hearts bleed. However, to promote a strategic interest, we are forced to offer sacrifices, particularly since it is common knowledge that all the Palestinians in Libya are contributing to our development and they are needed by our people in the Jamahiriyah. Nevertheless, protecting the Palestinian identity comes first in our strategic objectives.

Whoever has been following events will be aware that Palestinians were living in Libya before oil was discovered, and that Libyans fought in Palestine before oil was discovered. [passage omitted]

Pan-Arab commitments and commitment to the Palestine issue make it essential to fill the West Bank, Gaza, Jericho, and all the villages and towns of Palestine with 7 million refugees and displaced Palestinians from all over the world. Only then will we be able to triumph by sheer human thrust on the Israelis and be able to protect the Palestinian identity. Those who claim to be concerned about liberating Palestine must prove their seriousness by moving Palestinians to their homeland in their millions.

In order for Palestinians not to remain displaced with temporary travel documents and living under painful and rundown conditions, it would be more appropriate for us to talk about the tragedy and pain of 7 million Palestinians, rather than the tragedy of 20 Palestinians who are on their way home. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Expresses Hopes for Islamic Summit

LD1612083494 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 16 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Kanun [December] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The newspaper AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR wrote an article yesterday on the Islamic summit held in Casablanca in Morocco, saying that we are looking forward for the results and conclusions of the summit which means a great deal to everybody.

The newspaper expressed its hope that the summit becomes a land-mark between two eras, an era of weakness, humiliation and meaningless resolutions and a new era of serious actions and efforts in implementation of Islamic resolutions.

The newspaper said that the situation is Somalia, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and the Great Jamahiriyah crisis with the West are still points of weakness in the Islamic body which has to be stronger and more capable to curb injustices.

The paper confirmed that the real problem for Muslims is not highlighting the causes or issues but the real problems is the manner and method of implementing for resolutions.

Sudanese Embassy on Decision To Halt Border Transit

LD1412103494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0923 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 14 Dec—The Sudanese Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah has refuted reports recently circulated by some news agencies and foreign radio stations about Sudanese citizens being prevented from entering [Libya] through the desert border crossing of al-'Uwaynat.

The embassy's statement stressed that the people's bodies in the Great Jamahiriyah have not prevented any Sudanese citizen from entering the Great Jamahiriyah in the recent period, and that the decision to halt the entry of Sudanese citizens to the Great Jamahiriyah via the aforementioned border crossing was a decision taken by the Sudanese bodies in agreement with the people's bodies in the Great Jamahiriyah for a limited period. The decision was dictated by necessity so that the Sudanese authorities can organize and rationalize the entry of Sudanese citizens via this border crossing.

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Editor Assails European Decision on Ties With Israel

LD1412171594 Tripoli JANA in English 1451 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Kanun [December] 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA's International Affairs Editor derided the resolution issued by the recent European summit held in Germany, which gave the Israeli enemy a preferential status in relations with the European Union due to what it described as joint common interests.

The editor said that what has to be asserted firstly is that this resolution has a clear racist tendency with obvious dimensions and goals. Why then have the Israelis been given a preferential status when they are the ones who occupy Arab territory in Palestine and elsewhere and they are the ones who expel the Arab people and engage in the most atrocious and barbaric practices such as the killing of children and demolishing occupied houses.

The day before yesterday the house of a Palestinian family was bombed. There are numerous similar examples of such practices. The editor added that those Europeans see for themselves daily the acts of arbitrary savage bombings of the towns and villages of occupied South Lebanon and how Israeli tanks crush whole families.

JANA's International Affairs Editor concluded his comment by asking how could this European decision be considered anything but racist. It goes in hand in hand with the Israeli enemy's desire to exterminate the Arabs and the establishment of the racist Israeli entity over their ruins.

The editor added that this is exactly what is meant by giving the Israelis preferential treatment, even though they are threatening the world with their nuclear weapons and rejecting the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and defying the international community and the resolutions of the Security Council, including Resolution 425 which asks the Israelis to withdraw from South Lebanon within 24 hours. But the Israelis did not comply with this resolution during the past four years. In addition the Israelis rejected about 50 other resolutions issued by the United Nations concerning the situation in Palestine.

The International Affairs Editor added that the Europeans talk about joint common interest, asked about these interests and asserted that the Arabs are providing oil, the Suez canal, Babel Mandib and the straits of Gibraltar, which provide a link between the Arab world and Europe. Western European companies which work in Arab countries have been provided with thousands of jobs for their workers and have been saved from collapse.

The Arabs themselves are providing Europe with billions of dollars. The real European interests therefore lies with the Arabs and not the Israelis. As we know the Europeans are paying the Israelis billions of dollars in compensation for the Jews who suffered at the hands of the Europeans.

The International Affairs Editor in JANA concluded that the Israeli enemy has no choice other than to destroy and disgrace the Arabs and the European stance. The Arabs will loose confidence in the Europeans because the stances of Western countries against the Arab world represent racism.

Iran Discusses Cooperation on Water Supply Project

LD1512110694 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 15 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Iran and Libya held talks in Tripoli on Wednesday [14 December] over Iran's cooperation in the implementation of the giant man-made river in Libya.

The talks were held between Iranian Ambassador to Libya Nuri-Shahrudi and Libyan minister for the planning and implementation of the project.

The project which was launched in 1984 in a region in southern Libya with an objective to supply six million cubic meters of water for irrigation and drinking, has now extended to the eastern and northern parts of the country.

Iranian companies are willing to take part in the project.

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Leaders of GCC States Hold Meeting in Bahrain

IRNA on Major Topics of Discussion

LD1912223694 Tehran IRNA in English 2214 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Border disputes between member states and promotion of relations with the Zionist regime will be among the major topics to be discussed by Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, (P)GCC, summit to start in Bahrain on Monday [19 December].

Border disputes between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Qatar and Bahrain, as well as between Oman and Saudi Arabia have escalated over the recent weeks. The Saudi-Qatar dispute led to a border skirmish.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said in Manama on Saturday that the heads of (P)GCC states would bring up the border disputes between in their 15th summit meeting. He did not elaborate on the cases of disputes, but observers believe that heads of the countries will discuss the dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Qatar and Bahrain and the trilateral dispute involving Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The disputes date back to the 1960s, when the British colonialists left the Persian Gulf region. The continuation of the disputes are hindering joint political, social and economic projects, and even the formation of (P)GCC in 1981 could not end these disputes. The six southern Persian Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, UAE and Oman, are members of the (P)GCC. Informed sources at the conference say that border disputes were not on the agenda of the summit, but the heads of states will discuss the matter on the sideline of their meet.

The foreign ministers of the member states gathered Saturday in riot-torn Manama, to make preparations for the summit. The gradual lifting of the sanctions against the Zionist regime will be considered at the summit meeting. Last month, the (P)GCC member states agreed to lift the embargo against the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime. Some Zionist officials have already paid visits to a number of Persian Gulf littoral states including Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. The member countries have also approved all compromise accords signed between Arab countries and the Zionist regime and have announced their readiness to establish relations with Israel.

Sources close to the Council announced that the strengthening of the joint military forces called 'Peninsula Shield' as well as the security agreement will be on the agenda of the summit. The council will try to increase the number of joint military forces from 4,000 to 25,000. 'Peninsula Shield' was formed in the 1980s as a supposed deterrent to foreign threat, but the forces did not play any role in the Persian Gulf war.

The interior ministers of Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE and Bahrain have recently inked a joint security agreement. Qatar did not attend the meeting while Kuwait rejected the agreement. 'Abdallah al-Nafisi, the advisor to the kuwaiti parliament last week termed the agreement as "very threatening" and added that it would not fulfill the security demands of the government.

The differences between the (P)GCC member states on the joint security agreement indicates a deep rift among members and that the propaganda on the unity and solidarity of members is far from the truth. According to observers, the border disputes among the (P)GCC members is so alarming that the summit has decided to include it on the agenda.

Al-Qasimi on Arab Reconciliation, Iraq

JN1912080394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has said the 15th GCC summit will discuss completing the building of collective defense capabilities of the council states in a manner that enhances the collective security of GCC states.

In a statement to the Bahraini AL-AYYAM, Shaykh al-Qasimi said: The summit is concerned with the subject of security and stability. Our region witnessed devastating wars and attempts to change the political map of the region during the past decade. He said the GCC has worked out an integrated vision for realizing comprehensive security strengthening the internal front and working for setting up a deterrent defensive system based on the fact that security of the council states is an indivisible whole.

Al-Qasimi emphasized that there are no obstacles facing the GCC's performance in the political and economic fields. He said the subject is related to a time framework and giving a chance to the member states to adjust their laws, systems, and legislation, which they have followed for long time, in order to cope with joint work plans.

Answering a question on the possibility of a reconciliation among Arab countries, he said: We believe in Arab affiliation and solidarity in deeds and not words, but at the same time we believe that speaking frankly precedes reconciliation because it is necessary to absorb the lessons of the joint Arab action that harmed Arab solidarity following the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

He described Iraq's recognition of Kuwait as a step in the right direction toward implementing resolutions of international legitimacy, and emphasized that the future of relations with Iraq depends on its full implementation of all the conditions and commitments that resulted from its aggression [words indistinct] in a full and comprehensive manner.

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Bahraini Amir Addresses Opening Session

JN1912183594 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1608 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Speech by Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, at the opening session of the 15th summit of the GCC Supreme Council in Manama—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Esteemed brothers, the custodian of the two holy mosques and their majesties and highnesses members of the Supreme Council of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council]. Gentlemen: Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

I am very pleased and honored to extend a warm welcome to you in your own country, Bahrain. I am also pleased to say that Bahrain—government and people—is proud to host this noble gathering of yours within the context of the blessed joint march of our fraternal states and peoples, and within the framework of the GCC. We are pleased to open today the 15th session of the GCC's Supreme Council with your noble attendance and your brotherly meeting.

On this dear occasion, I am pleased to extend to our noble brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, gratitude for the sincere efforts which he and his wise government exerted while he was chairman of our GCC's previous session, and which helped us achieve tangible positive results on the path of our Council's blessed march.

Esteemed brothers: Our fraternal people in the GCC member states are today viewing this summit with interest and hope. They are joined in this by the brothers in the Arab homeland and the friendly and allied forces in the world, in a phase which is replete with developments and in an era that requires all world states and blocs to play an effective part in the world community with the common policies and positions they adopt.

Our common success, achieved with the grace of God and the support and backing of our people, in establishing the GCC was an important accomplishment toward achieving the common good for all of us. Events and successive developments in today's world have confirmed the great importance of this strategic objective.

Throughout its march, our GCC has achieved important accomplishments that constitute positive bases, which must be embraced and improved in a way that responds to the aspirations of our fraternal people and rises to the level of the repeated challenges that still face the region's security and stability. This is a test, by which our people and the entire world will judged us. There is no alternative to this joint march, which is the logic of this era and the characteristic of world action everywhere.

There are no problems among brothers that cannot be resolved with sincerity, patience, political wisdom, and determination to work together without any retreat. Foremost of the desired objectives to underline our common entity in the world is to achieve the internal impregnability of this entity by eliminating the causes for differences from within and by strengthening the ties of solidarity among its members. This can be achieved by strengthening cooperation and integration in the security and economic fields which we agreed upon and to which we committed ourselves, particularly the Peninsula Shield Force and the Unified Economic Agreement. This is the guarantee for the success of any joint action. Glory to God who said in His Holy Koran: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

In conclusion, brothers, we welcome you and your blessed gathering in Bahrain and we wish you a good stay among your family. We pray to God to guide us all to work for the common good to achieve the aspirations of our fraternal people in solidarity, stability, and prosperity.

And say: Work righteousness, soon will God observe your work, and His apostle and the believers. [Koranic verse]

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

First Session Ends

JN1912182094 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—Their majesties and highnesses, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, ended their first working session here this evening within the framework of the 15th session of the [GCC] Higher Council, which opened this evening.

In their session, the leaders listened to a report by GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi. The report covers political, economic, security, and military issues listed on the agenda aimed at bolstering cooperation among GCC states and achieving further cohesion among them in line with the requirements of the coming phase.

WAKH has learned that their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders will hold another working session at 1100 tomorrow, Tuesday.

WAKH has also learned that the GCC foreign ministers will hold a meeting tomorrow morning preceding the GCC leaders' meeting to continue discussions on some issues listed on the agenda.

Foreign Ministers Discuss Final Statement

JN2012082594 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council

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[GCC] states held a meeting on the sidelines of the GCC Supreme Council meetings at the Bahrain Royal Meridian Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and president of the current council session.

The Gulf News Agency has learned that the ministers will be acquainted with the final statement worked out by the GCC General Secretariat before presenting it to the council leaders for their endorsement at the end of the 15th Gulf summit tomorrow, Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, GCC secretary general; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bu-'Ali, assistant secretary general for political affairs; Dr. 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, assistant secretary general for economic affairs; Major General Yusuf al- Madani, head of the Military Committee.

Ministers Approve Statement

LD2012140194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 20 Dec 94

[From the KUNA news summary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama—In their meeting which preceded the second session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit, GCC foreign ministers approved the final version of the draft final statement.

In Manama, Gulf official sources say that the Sultanate of Oman has put forward a proposal to the GCC 15th summit calling for a practical plan to be drawn in order to combat extremism and irresponsible religious fanaticism which contradicts the tolerance in the Islamic shari'ah.

Foreign Ministers Conclude Meeting

JN2012091394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—The Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded its meeting at the Bahrain Royal Meridian Hotel this morning. The meeting was chaired by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and president of the current council session.

The foreign ministers of the GCC states were acquainted with the final draft of the final statement worked out by the GCC General Secretariat so that it can be presented to the GCC leaders for endorsement at the end of the Gulf summit tomorrow, Wednesday.

Bahrain

Hizballah Radio on 'Tense' Situation, Security

NC2012072594 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation is still extremely tense in Bahrain. The regime's security forces reinforced measures following confrontations in which seven people were killed within two days. Five of the dead were demonstrators and four police [figures as heard].

Eyewitnesses affirm that many of the special forces have been deployed in important places in the capital, Manama, and the western Shiite villages, the scene of the fiercest clashes. Security forces were deployed along the roads leading to [word indistinct], where the Gulf Cooperation Council opened last night.

In the past two days, police used live bullets during fierce confrontations between the security forces and citizens. At least two people were killed. The confrontations resumed in the [word indistinct] the capital, particularly in the villages of Sanabis, al-Diraz, and [word indistinct].

'Almost 1,600' Said Seized

NC2012120294 Paris AFP in English 1119 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Dec 20 (AFP)—Bahraini security forces have rounded up almost 1,600 people accused of stirring up clashes between Shiite protesters and police which left as many as nine dead, diplomatic sources said Tuesday [20 December].

The sources in Manama, contacted by telephone, told AFP the arrests took place in the capital as well as towns and villages with large Shiite communities in the mainly Sunni Gulf state.

Armoured vehicles and special forces were deployed in Bahrain on Monday as the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) began a three-day summit.

"The six (Gulf) leaders had better learn their lesson from the demonstrations" which have rocked Bahrain over the past two weeks, warned a member of a GCC delegation who refused to be named.

Security forces shot dead five demonstrators and four policemen also died in clashes which peaked over the weekend, the banned opposition Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB) said.

But the Bahraini interior ministry said just one policeman had been killed in the violence, which erupted after the arrest of Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman on December 5.

The IFLB, in a statement sent to AFP in Tehran, said Tuesday that arrests were being made "at any time and under all kinds of circumstances."

Security forces carried out house searches, arbitrarily arresting "men and even children," it said, quoting witnesses. Cars were stopped for identity checks, "especially in sealed off areas like Manama."

Jo prison in the south of the Gulf archipelago as well as other jails were now overfull, the group said.

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"Prisoners are living under very bad conditions and are badly treated. The health situation of most of them is critical," it said, adding that some political prisoners had been kept at Jaww for as long as 13 years.

The protesters are demanding the release of Shaykh 'Ali, arrested for having sent the emir a demand for the restoration of parliament, suspended since 1975.

They have vowed to hold a demonstration during the GCC summit.

At the summit, meanwhile, Oman called for the Gulf monarchies to take a stand against religious extremism, officials said Tuesday. GCC foreign ministers drafting the final communique were studying the Omani proposal.

The Gulf monarchies have faced a steady rise in opposition from religious fundamentalist activists.

Oman last month jailed more than 200 activists of a group accused of using Islam to sow sedition. Saudi Arabia has banned an opposition fundamentalist group called the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit, attended by the six GCC members, last week adopted a "code of conduct" to fight terrorism and extremism.

The leaders of Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain wind up their annual summit on Wednesday.

The emir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, warned in his opening address of "the challenges to the region's security and stability," referring to border disputes in the Gulf.

The unrest in his country is the worst Bahrain has seen since the former British protectorate gained its independence in 1971.

According to Bahraini authorities, Shiites make up 35 percent of the country's population. But independent estimates have put the figure at 55 to 60 percent.

Bahraini, Qatari Amirs Discuss Issues

JN2012144294 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1202 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini amir; His Highness Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini prime minister; and His Highness Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, received Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani at the Bahraini amir's place of residence in the Bahrain Royal Meridien Hotel this morning. The two sides exchanged views on Gulf and Arab issues, issues of concern to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and the brotherly relations between the two countries.

The meeting falls within meetings the Bahraini amir is holding with their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the GCC states on the sidelines of the Bahrain GCC summit.

The meeting was attended by members of delegations accompanying the two leaders.

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Ex-General al-Samarra'i Criticizes Saddam's Regime

Appeals to Army Officers

LD1712093294 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in Arabic 1855 GMT 16 Dec 94

["Open Letter" from Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, who recently defected to the opposition in the north of Iraq; dated 11 December]

[FBIS Translated Text] Open letter from Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i:

To:

- Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal
- Staff General 'Abd-al-Jawad Dannun
- Staff General Husayn Rashid
- Staff General Sa'di Tu'mah
- Staff General Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji
- Staff Lieutenant General Hisham al-Fakhri
- Staff Lieutenant General Ayad Futayih al-Rawi
- Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir
- Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad
- Staff Lieutenant General Ayad Khalil Zaki
- Staff Lieutenant General Ahmad Hammash
- Staff Lieutenant General Shawkat Ahmad 'Atta
- Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar
- Staff Lieutenant General Salah 'Abboud
- Commanders of the Army corps and divisions, heads of branches and directorates
- Freemen in the Air, Navy and Army Aviation commands
- Governors

Honorable men, peace be upon you. Not long ago we worked together with a single spirit to build the great Iraqi Army.

We wanted it as a strong shield for the homeland, while Saddam wanted to transform it into a destructive tool against the people and the brothers and to undermine values and stability. Regrettably, Saddam has succeeded in achieving his objective, spreading destruction and terror. I am convinced that you are fully aware of what is happening, because you are those who know Saddam best. Therefore, I do not need to recall the tragedies of Saddam's war with Iran nor his decision to make war against the brothers in the second Gulf war, the Desert Shield, a subject about which I will publish in a concise way.

Brothers, what attracts you to remain, superficially, in the trench with Saddam? Do not you know that it was Saddam who murdered your senior brothers and your best youth to ensure his place as a dictator? Do you not know Saddam's behavior and that of his sons and daughters and cousins, and the extent of their corruption and decadence? Do you not see the extent of the destruction that befell the country, and did Saddam achieve a single humanitarian objective out of all his wars?

Why are the people eating this kind of bread, the like of which no human on the face of this earth has eaten? For what are the people suffering while Saddam and members of his family are increasing their riches and arrogance? Where is our great army and where are our aircraft? A minor mistake from you would lead to your execution; why then was Saddam not held responsible for his decision to send 150 combat aircraft to Iran, and where are those aircraft—with due respect for Iran's position to check Saddam's tyranny.

Why should we keep quiet about medicine shortages while Saddam continues to build palaces which he claims to be palaces of the people. You perfectly know that by people, he means the members of his criminal family. Yet I am convinced that they will be returned to the people, or rather the people will undermine his position before the palaces are completed. I am convinced that you agree with what I am saying and I am also convinced that your hearts are with the people. However, I am not talking about the faint of faith. It is not befitting for you, nor can we accept 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Husayn Kamil, and Watban al-Hasan to be your commanders, as they are devoid of all moral values and ethics. They are only sergeants and noncommissioned police officers, with due respect to all ranks of our military forces.

Coordination among you is important and rather essential. You have experienced the struggle, and I was with you for humanitarian objectives; however, these have been changed to serve Saddam's interests and tyranny, without your say. In an act of repentance for the sins we committed, we must all move to the side of the revolution, the people's revolution, a revolution of history as a whole. Do you think that the people will ever abandon the struggle against Saddam until his downfall?

Brothers, I appeal to you in the name of right, in the name of the souls of the martyrs and victims who we want to be content in the sky of Iraq, a free, democratic, and united Iraq. I appeal to you in the name of all those who have been violated by Saddam and his henchmen. I appeal to you in the name of the orphans, the widows, and the hungry, in the name of the great values of Iraq, which have been distorted by Saddam; I appeal to you, a call of a man to a man, to leave the stagnant pool of Saddam and rise to where you should be at the summits of glory in all parts of Iraq. Ridicule Saddam as I have done and revolt against him as I have done to join those who preceded us to glory.

This is an appeal of right and an appeal of glory and I am convinced that you will heed it, as I know you and your noble origin better than Saddam. Calamity will overtake the oppressor.

[Signed] Your brother, Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, 11 December 1994.

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Calls For Freedom of Speech

LD2012020894 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in Arabic 1121 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i [former Iraqi military intelligence chief] has issued a clarification to point out that the security committees in the Ba'th areas are following the Friday sermons in all Iraqi mosques and are forcing members of those committees or local officials to listen to the preachers and watch out for news on the religious opposition to Saddam's bloody policy.

While condemning such vile acts, which run counter to the most basic divine values, we urge all ordinary Ba'thists not to be a tool in the hands of the oppressors and not to help restrict and muzzle freedom of speech in mosques.

The members of the security committees are responsible for unmasking the elements which continue to carry out these criminal intentions so that they receive their just retribution should they fail to return to the right path.

Addresses Arab Leaders

NC2012082094 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 94

["Text" of open message to Arab leaders from Staff Major General Wafiq al—Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi military intelligence—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Majesty, the Esteemed Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.
Your Majesty [Jordanian] King Husayn Ibn-Talal.
Your Excellency [Egyptian] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.
Your Excellency [Syrian] President Hafiz al-Asad.
Your Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait.
Your Highness the Amir of the State of Bahrain.
Your Highness the President of the United Arab Emirates.

Sincere greetings from a persecuted and struggling people.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses.

With this open message I wish to convey the pains and hopes of our people in Iraq to leaders that the people hope will play their historic role in saving them from the injustice inflicted on them by the most repressive criminal clique known in history.

I came from Baghdad two weeks ago, from the city of peace that criminal Saddam has turned into a supreme center for administering terrorism and war, a pit for corrupting values and principles, and a base for unprecedented injustice.

Since 1968 Saddam has been fabricating excuses to liquidate his opponents. If only his opponents inside had [word indistinct] so as to leave the innocent people in peace. But he has antagonized the entire people, Arabs and Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites, Christians and Turkomen. During the first stage of the struggle he fomented ethnic and sectarian issues and our people became the victim of international and regional interests. We do not ignore the guilt of some sectors of the Iraqi people in this. But the applause was not enough for Saddam to achieve what he has achieved. No one has specific figures on those killed or displaced by Saddam. But I have accurate knowledge of mass executions. Young men were taken from their houses to the desert to be killed and buried there in mass graves prepared by engineering machinery. These young men were not from the uprising revolutionaries or from among tens of thousands of Shiites or tens of thousands of peaceful Kurds; they were Arab Sunnis and Ba'thists. That has been the situation for the past 26 years.

In October 1994, Saddam's gangs arrested thousands of men of religion and pious people from among the Sunnis of central Iraq on charges of following the Wahhabism creed. Saddam said they were supported by Saudi Arabia and leveled charges on their belonging to the Salafiyah creed supported by the United States through Jordan. That is what criminal Saddam says. No one knows their fate to this day.

The campaign of repression against the Kurds martyred 200,000 Kurds, most of them Sunnis. In the March 1991 uprising, over 100,000 shiites were martyred. In the city of al-Hillah alone, 1,713 people were executed within days in accordance with the authority given to the Babil governor, Staff Major General Tali' al- Duri. Saddam Kamil in al-Radwaniyah executed over 10,000 people. With the knowledge of Saddam, Al-Jizrawi killed the son of Imam al- Khu'i and other members of his family while Saddam received al-Khu'i in front of the world.

Allow me to say with deep regret that Saddam personally violated the honor of citizens in central Iraq. I know what I am saying. Al-Mu'tasim [Abbaside caliph] was content with one shout in 'Amuriyah to lead the armies.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses.

Your sons and brothers in Iraq are not impotent. The situation inside the country is explosive. For over 99 percent of the people, including the Armed Forces, Saddam is not acceptable. The secret of his survival is the weakness in coordination and stances. Your intervention will not be one in the internal affairs of an independent country, because the criminal clique seized control of the people at an unguarded moment and did so illegally. Your aid and support for the Iraqi people does not, in essence, differ from your support for the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

Maintaining the sanctions is very important because they are targeting the core of Saddam's regime. Reducing them would be a blow to every value and principle. Should this happen, God forbid, then the people in Iraq

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would say that all that has happened was a preplanned scenario and that the Iraqi people are its only victim. Maintaining the sanctions might lead to a spread in undercover terrorism. Retaliation against state terrorism using every possible means would be legitimate. What we hope is that the means would be very clear and honest.

We know how much you desire Iraq's unity and ensuring that the outcome of the change would not affect the regional balance. We agree with you wholeheartedly. But Saddam is no longer acceptable as part of the equation and his current forces cannot help in standing fast against a strong foreign party if the international protection of Iraq is lifted. Rearming him is illogical. Therefore there must be change.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses.

When I joined the liberated area, I did not support any faction against another but I searched for the denominator to unify the opposition through which we might continue the [word indistinct] jihad. I can confirm that Iraqi sectarianism has disappeared and that we and the Kurds have a common history and policy and advanced relations. They agree with us on maintaining Iraq's unity. I still have accurate knowledge of their objectives and circumstances.

As for the sectarian issue, which was highlighted by Saddam, it has started to abate and the central region, which has united its ranks and policies, no longer wants it. The year 1994 is not 1991. The central region will be the core of the volcano that will topple Saddam. The brothers in the south have realized that the injustice inflicted on them was Saddam's alone. He is their target and our target in central and northern Iraq. No one wants to secede, not the Shiites in the south, the Kurds in the north, or the Sunnis in the centre.

We can assure you that the people's supreme aim is to bring down Saddam and they will not tarry in protecting their unity, that of the Kurds and Arabs, Sunnis and Shiites. We in the central region fully realize the importance of this.

Your brothers, the sons of your nation, and your comrades in Iraq appeal to you to tighten the siege on Saddam and to help them achieve their great humanitarian objectives.

Baghdad Alleges Iranian Cease-Fire Violations

JN1412101494 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 14 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Dec. 14, INA—Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over violations by the Iranian regime of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement of the buffer zone between the two countries.

In a protest memorandum to U.N Chief Dr Butrus Ghali, Iraq's U.N Ambassador Nizar Hamdun said the Iranian regime carried out a series of land, air and sea violations besides anti-Iraq repeated provocative acts over November 5-29.

U.S. Aircraft 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN1312135594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq once again protested to the UN Secretariat over U.S. aircraft violations of the Iraqi airspace on provocative and surveillance missions and on missions to drop flares.

In a memorandum he sent to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali, Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations said that between 1 and 10 December, U.S. aircraft conducted 704 sorties over southern and northern areas of Iraq.

The envoy said that a hostile formation consisting of two aircraft on 1 December dropped six flares over Qal'at Salih area in Maysan Governorate. Another formation on 2 and 3 December dropped six flares to the south of al-Zubayr area in al-Basrah Governorate.

He noted that a TR-1 air reconnaissance plane violated the Iraqi airspace in the southern area on 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 December and left in the direction of Kuwait.

Iraq's permanent envoy requested that the memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

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Peres Comments on Policy in South Lebanon

TA2012123694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Israel's policy concerning Lebanon is neither hesitant nor restrained, but carefully thought out. Our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel interviewed the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I do not think there is a policy of restraint, there is a carefully thought out policy. We hit the sources of the firing. There are no delays or any hesitation. I hope we will succeed in overcoming the problem. We have repeatedly called on Syria to restrain Hizballah, especially through the United States, but that has apparently not been very effective. We will continue doing the same, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be the force to defend the area.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 20 December in a report by Nati Silberman during Foreign Minister Peres' visit to the village of I'billin in the north of Israel quotes the foreign minister as denying reports that the IDF's hands are being tied due to political negotiations. In a recorded passage, Mr. Peres says: "Our hands are not tied because of the political talks with the Syrians. The negotiations with the Syrians are being conducted slowly and have still not gotten down to the nitty gritty, but no peace negotiations will ever prevent us or hold us up from taking the necessary defensive measures to assure quiet and security in the north." Asked how far Israel is from the red line of operating in Lebanon on the Operation Accountability model, Peres responded: "We will do what we have to do, and those things are obviously not made public beforehand. I can only say in the most general terms that the actions and measures necessary to defend the border will be taken when required."]

[Mandel] Is it correct to continue to negotiate with Syria? We hear that the chief of staff might be incorporated into the team of officers negotiating with Syria, while it is backing Hizballah.

[Peres] We are negotiating with enemies, not friends, so that they will stop being enemies. Had we been negotiating with friends we would not been making peace.

[Mandel] Sir, in reference to the negotiations with Syria, there is a feeling that they are being conducted secretly and we do not know anything about them.

[Peres] First of all, had that been correct, it would not have been that bad, but it is not true. Still, we are permitted to conduct contacts, both secret and open, in any way possible. Why not?

[Mandel] How are the negotiations with the Syrians being conducted? Are IDF officers participating in them?

[Peres] What can be made public, we have made public, what we cannot announce, I will not announce. [end recording]

Peres on Differences With PLO on Council Size

TA2012105794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Palestinians are demanding that the interim self-governing authority number 80 representatives while Israel is insisting on 30-40, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Peres said that during last week's meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo, the Palestinians presented a list of demands regarding the council and the elections.

In addition to their insistence on an 80-member council, the Palestinians want the council to be divided into two bodies—an executive and a supervisory body. According to Peres, the Palestinians regard the supervisory body as similar to the office of the State Comptroller in Israel. Beni Begin (Likud) disputed this assessment, arguing that in asking for a supervisory body, the Palestinians mean to establish a legislature.

Peres will meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint in Gaza tomorrow to discuss speeding up negotiations over Palestinian elections and redeployment of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, Channel One reported last night.

The sides remain divided over the status of eastern Jerusalem Palestinians in the election for the interim self-governing authority, said Peres, without elaborating.

The government has reportedly agreed to allow the Palestinian residents of eastern Jerusalem to vote for the council, but insists that they cross into the autonomy area to cast their votes. The Palestinians want to hold the elections in eastern Jerusalem and insist that eastern Jerusalem residents be allowed to stand as candidates for the council.

Peres denied a report that the Foreign Ministry has drafted a paper calling for a quick, first-phase IDF withdrawal from Ramallah, Janin and Nabulus. "There is absolutely no truth to this," he said in response to a question by Moshe Peled (Tzomet). "There was no such document and no names of cities have been mentioned." [passage omitted]

Netanyahu: Syria Given 'Far-Reaching' Golan Plan

TA1912181694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Binyamin Netanyahu said today that Israeli officers had met recently with Syria's ambassador in Washington and presented him with a far-reaching Golan Heights withdrawal plan. The Likud

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chairman made the remarks to the foreign minister in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Peres reacted by saying that such a meeting was not held in the past week. Yiftah El'azar reports from the Knesset committee's deliberations:

[Begin recording] [El'azar] Shim'on Peres today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that terrorist techniques in Lebanon are becoming more sophisticated, which is leading to a rise in the number of fatalities. Netanyahu: Is the lack of an initiative on our part an outcome of military helplessness or a deliberate political policy to appease al-Asad? The Likud chairman then surprised the committee.

[Netanyahu] In the past two weeks, a meeting was held between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers and the Syrian ambassador in Washington. In that meeting, Israel expressed a readiness for a far-reaching withdrawal to the northern border. In fact, that is the start of a process in which the government plans to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights, pull the IDF off the Golan Heights, and make our security and the peace it is supposedly trying to achieve with Syria dependent on al-Asad's so-called goodwill.

[El'azar] Peres smiled: If you are asking about last week, then no such meeting took place. Exactly what are you accusing us of, the foreign minister asked. If we could negotiate secretly, that would be preferable, Peres said.

[Peres] I believe that Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu did not attend those talks; therefore, he did not see any papers. He could not have seen any withdrawal papers because no such papers were handed over. The negotiations with Syria have not stopped for even one moment. They are being conducted all the time, just slowly and, unfortunately, not in a way I believe can produce pragmatic results in the foreseeable future.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 19 December, carries a similar report by David Ze'ev. In a recorded passage, Peres tells reporters after the meeting: "If we cannot reach an agreement immediately, we shall continue to negotiate until, hopefully, we shall find a way out." The foreign minister is quoted as saying that "the Syrians must be held accountable for the violence in Lebanon." In a recorded passage, Peres says: "The Syrians have a capacity to prevent the Hizballah from these sort of actions or to stop them from doing it, and I think that Syria should be addressed with this responsibility. She cannot say that Lebanon cannot negotiate without her and say that she does not carry responsibility for the ongoing terror in the southern part of Lebanon."]

[El'azar] On another issue, MK Beni Begin managed to unbalance Peres. The foreign minister does not stop misleading the public, he said, hinting at the capital gains tax. It is perhaps the norm in this government to mislead the person who heads it, Begin said. Peres broke in saying: You are one of the greatest slanderers. I have never seen a Knesset with so many slanderers, and you are the greatest of them all. Over the next few minutes, committee Chairman Ori Or tried unsuccessfully to restore order. Begin called the angry foreign minister 'Arafat's attorney.

When tempers cooled, the foreign minister managed to clarify another matter. In response to a query by MK Ra'anan Kohen, he made it clear that Israel will not hold contacts with Iraq as long as Saddam Husayn heads it. [end recording]

Meretz Component for Evacuation of Some Settlements

TA1912122494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a political discussion in Kibbutz Shefayim last night, the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement, a Meretz component] Council decided to work for the evacuation of settlements that constitute a security burden and to formulate a plan for compensating settlers who leave their places of residence.

The council further decided that the CRM and Meretz will take every public step possible to implement the interim stage of the negotiations with the Palestinians and to smoothly and easily move to the discussion and implementation of the permanent arrangement.

The CRM Council resolution further stated that there is a need to take steps for elections in the territories, to act for the redeployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops while providing for the security of Israelis and evacuating the settlements that constitute a security burden. Also, as reported above, it was decided that a plan should be devised to make certain that settlers who choose to leave their place of residents are compensated.

Speaking at the session, Minister Yosi Sarid announced that the Israeli Government has no intention of withdrawing from the Oslo Declaration of Principles [DOP], changing it, or amending it. According to him, the government was and remains faithful to the DOP, and is therefore committed to holding elections in the territories as soon as possible, the IDF redeployment, and the protection of Israelis in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Redeployment is the rule, and the exception to the rule will only be made where removing the IDF soldiers will jeopardize settlers' life. In such places, redeployment will be restricted." he said.

Minister Sarid advised Ari'el Sharon and his associates not to rush and saw new suits "because they might be out of fashion by the time Likud returns to power."

"In any event, at the end of its term, this government will create an entirely new political reality which will be much stronger than Sharon and Netanyahu put together, and which a 1,000 or 2,000 Likud Central Committee

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members will be unable to change." Sarid was referring to remarks Likud's Ari'el Sharon made yesterday that if the Likud returns to power, it is not certain that it would leave political agreements as are.

In her address, Meretz Chairman Shulamit Aloni stressed that the redeployment should be carried out with the full agreement and understanding of the Palestinians. Aloni maintained that settlements that constitute a security nuisance and are a burden on the army should be removed, including the settlements near Hebron and Nabulus.

Knesset Member Ran Kohen, Meretz faction chairman, indirectly attacked outgoing Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq when he criticized the fact that the IDF does not yet have contingency plans for redeployment in the territories. Kohen explained this by saying that "the man who heads the IDF does not want to issue an order before his superior issues it."

Settlers Warn of Forming Militias After IDF Pullout

TA1812133994 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 18 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 'Etzyon Bloc settlers intend to stand at the helm of a determined public struggle if indeed a decision is made to withdraw the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Bethlehem as part of the army redeployment before the Palestinian Authority elections. An emergency meeting is expected to take place at the 'Etzyon Bloc this week in which various options will be discussed. The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is also expected to discuss this issue in its weekly session tomorrow.

In a meeting at the 'Etzyon Bloc last Thursday [15 December], held soon after the idea to remove the IDF from Bethlehem was made known, several contingency steps were suggested, including bringing thousands of people out to the roads in Judaea and Samaria to demonstrate that Israel owns those roads and even seizing the military government building in Bethlehem if the IDF evacuates it for the PLO. The building is located on the main road from the 'Etzyon Bloc to Jerusalem on which thousands of the 'Etzyon Bloc and Hebron Hills residents travel daily by private and public transportation. The Gilo bypass road is expected to be completed by June 1996.

The discussion was attended by Shilo Gal, head of the 'Etzyon Bloc Regional Council; Knesset Members [MK's] Hanan Porat and Yig'al Bibi, who live in the bloc; Rabbi Shlomo Riskin from Efrat; Rabbi Ya'aqov Medan from Alon Shvut; Rabbi Menahem Friedman from Teqoa'; and others. The speakers made very harsh statements, which is unusual for the 'Etzyon Bloc settlers who are considered the moderate group among the settlers of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The harshest remarks were made by Rabbi Riskin, head of the Efrat Yeshiva. He said that the IDF pullout from Bethlehem is a "red line" the crossing of which will not be tolerated. He called for having thousands go out to the roads to demonstrate that they belong to Israel and not to the Palestinians. He further said that if the IDF troops are not present, the settlers must set up their own militias for self-defense. "The situation in the 'Etzyon Bloc cannot be similar to that in Gaza. I feel responsible for the people here, and I hope that the government does too," Rabbi Riskin said at the meeting.

NRP [National Religious Party] MK Hanan Porat warned that if the IDF pulls out of the Arab cities, incidents such as the one involving reservist Shmu'el Me'iri will happen by the dozens and daily. He added that this time, he is certain the struggle will succeed because the government is very confused and does not think straight on the issue, which will make it easier to convince the public, provided that the settlers are persistent and determined. Rabbi Ya'aqov Medan recalled the success of the struggle against the plot to evacuate Tall al-Rumaythah and remove the Jewish settlers from Hebron. That struggle should serve as a model for opposition to the evacuation of roads in Judaea and Samaria, he said.

Another suggestion made by Rabbi Riskin, which was adopted, was to immediately start the political struggle against the pullout idea. Among other things, it was decided to initiate meetings with hawkish Labor MK's and to explain to them that the IDF pullout from the Arab cities means jeopardizing Jewish lives because all of the bypass roads have not yet been completed. The first such meeting will be held next Monday at the Knesset and will be attended by NRP and Labor MK's, including 'Imanu'el Zismann, Gedalya Gal, Minister Shim'on Shetrit, and others. [passage omitted]

Al-Mu'ashshir Accepted as Jordan's Ambassador

TA1912175194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has given its assent to the appointment of Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir as Jordan's ambassador to Israel.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that Israel has not yet decided on its ambassador to Amman.

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U.S. Said To Seek 'Measures' Against Iran Embassy

JN2012111294 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 21 Dec 94 p 8

[Article by the diplomatic affairs editor: "Following U.S. Report Confirming Its Involvement in Financing Hamas, Washington Demands Closure of Iranian Embassy in Amman; Palestinian-Israeli Security Reports Confirm Tehran Extends $2 Million Monthly to Hamas"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Around eight months ago, the Israeli prime minister served a strongly-worded warning to Jordan after an official spokesman of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] made a statement from Amman saying that the 'Afulah operation would not be the last and that it would be followed by three other operations to avenge the martyrs of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron. Rabin said then that Jordan supports Hamas, provides it with a political cover, and gives it freedom of political and economic action. Since then, Hamas has been the main preoccupation of Yitzhaq Rabin and one of the items that constantly comes up in the consultations between Jordan and Israel.

Developments over the past two months have reinforced the conviction of the Israelis, and the Americans behind them, that Hamas has foreign extensions, including Jordan. This story is still straining the warm relations between Jordan on the one hand and the United States and Israel on the other. The United States and Israel are now totally convinced about the truth of the information repeated by Palestinian officials to the Americans and the Israelis to the effect that Jordan still sponsors Hamas to use it as a pressure card on the Palestinian Authority. This is within the context of the developments in the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship since the Oslo accord was signed a year and a half ago. [passage omitted]

Information available to AL-BILAD indicates that when President Clinton visited Jordan as part of his Middle East tour and his sponsoring of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, he discussed with his majesty the king the issue of fundamentalism in the region and in Jordan, in addition to the issue of Hamas. The two saw eye to eye in their estimation of the threat of extremist forces to the peace process. According to a Western diplomat, Clinton was convinced that Jordan would then take measures against Islamic extremists and Hamas.

Apparently, however, the U.S. Administration, and even Israel, are not satisfied with the narrow margin given to Hamas and want tougher measures against it. This forced President Bill Clinton to drop his diplomatic etiquette and send an important message to Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, before his departure for the seventh Islamic summit conference, asking him not to raise the issue of the Iraq blockade so as not to have an explosive issue at the conference. Clinton also told al-Hasan that the U.S. Administration has information that Jordan is still dealing with Hamas and that the U.S. Administration fears that the purpose of this could be to put pressure on the Palestinian Authority.

This information, revealed to us by a prominent Western diplomat in Amman, if proven true, would mean beyond doubt that the Israelis and Americans are convinced about the truth of the information repeated to them by the head and members of the Palestinian Authority that Jordan uses the Hamas card against the Authority.

A report submitted by the U.S. Congressional Research Service, focusing on the status of Hamas in the Middle East and its financial sources and political presence, notes that Iranian Ambassador in Amman Ahmad Dastmalchian extends financial support to the Hamas movement. It is clear that a report of this kind is aimed at putting more pressure on Iran and involving it more in the serious charge of being the main supporter of fundamentalist movements in the Islamic world. But the report also aims at putting pressure on Jordan to take specific steps not only against Hamas but also against the Iranian Embassy.

Despite the fact that the U.S. Administration said on the eve of disclosing the report—which was prepared by Clyde Mark and Kenneth Katzman—that Jordan is a leading country in the fight against terrorism, this does not preclude asking the Jordanian Government officially to verify the information in this serious report and take the necessary measures against the Iranian Embassy and Hamas itself.

Despite the official denial of Iran and Hamas of the substance of the report, Western nations, especially the United States, along with Israel and the self-rule authority, believe Iran is the primary supporter of Islamic movements that oppose the Middle East peace process. Sources close to Hamas do not rule out the possibility that this report could be a method of igniting war against Iran and Hamas and that the Palestinians and the Israelis had given its authors the information contained in it.

Security information given by the Palestinians to the Israelis in the past few months indicates that Hamas receives around $2 million from the Iranian Embassy in monthly support. The funds are transferred through trade firms inside Israel and the West Bank, and sometimes via Britain, Western nations, or the United States. Information indicates that the extremist part of Hamas that carries out military actions is represented in the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions. These battalions receive orders from Amman, Damascus, and Tehran, specifically through Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq [head of the Hamas Political Bureau and its representative in Damascus] and 'Imad al-'Alami, head of the Hamas bureau in Tehran. This information also indicates that Hamas leaders in Jordan carry out nonpolitical activity, that is, military and economic activity, in cooperation with the

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leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, particularly Dr. Hammam Sa'id and Muhammad Abu-Faris. [passage omitted]

In light of the congressional report, it is unclear now whether the U.S. Administration is going to adopt a positive or negative attitude toward this information and whether Jordan will be asked to take specific measures. The next few days could give us some clue to the answers.

Citizens Reportedly Volunteer To Fight in Chechenya

JN2012085294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Dec 94 p 12

["Special to the Jordan Times" by Cathy King]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Volunteers are signing up to join the forces of Chechen President Dudayev to fight the Russian intervention in the republic, Deputy Tujan Faysal said Monday [19 December].

"Mostly young men are volunteering and have been registering with us. We are waiting and if need be they will go. Maybe they themselves will decide to go without approval," Ms. Faysal told a press conference.

Ms. Faysal, who is of Circassian descent, is acting as spokesperson of the Chechen community in Jordan.

Addressing the press conference, called by the Jordanian Committee for the Support of the Independent Caucasian Chechen Republic (JCSCP), Ms. Faysal said that the committee had begun collecting humanitarian aid but had been awaiting official permission to send their contributions to the beleaguered Chechen Republic.

"We have arranged routes for sending medicine and other aid through the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and the Red Crescent and we received official permission to release what we have collected this morning," said Ms. Faysal.

Asked whether the Chechen community was considering sending military support for the people of the Chechen Republic, Ms. Faysal said: "Military backing requires a state decision. So, no, we are not offering military aid, just humanitarian."

She added that the Jordanian government was unanimous in its support for the independence of Chechenya. The government has not issued a formal statement on the crisis in Chechenya.

Recent reports from within the breakaway republic, the independence of which was unanimously ratified by the Chechen-Ingush Republic's parliament on Nov. 27, 1990 have alleged Russian use of banned warfare substances against the Chechens.

"We call upon the international community to intervene and to send a fact-finding mission to investigate reports of Russian use of napalm, cluster bombs and gas," Ms. Fayzal said, adding that there had also been renewed fears of deportations, a form of "ethnic cleansing."

Mass deportations of the people of the Caucasus characterised the communist era and fears of a repetition of such a course of events are strong among the Chechens.

"For almost 300 years the Caucasus region has resisted occupation and oppression under tsarist and communist Russia, but the lengthy duration of such policies does not make present intervention in the internal affairs of the Chechen Republic right," said Ms. Faysal.

The republic's strategic position, richness in natural resources and the Russian Federation's internal problems have provoked the invasion, she added.

JCSCP head and former Minister of Public Works Said Beano [name and title as published] told the press conference: "We contest the Russian claim that Chechenya is an internal matter of the federation of Russia and an integral part of it."

He recalled that the republic was established in March 1990 following a conference in Groznyy and that the Chechen people declined to join the Russian Federation in March 1992.

Russian military threats against the republic, Mr. Beano said, could lead to the expansion of hostilities throughout the Caucasus region.

By late Monday, Russian troops had sealed the last entrance to the capital Groznyy which they have besieged since Sunday, reports said.

Bilateral Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cuba

JN1912212594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Cuba signed a cooperation agreement paving the way for the development of their bilateral relations. An economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement signed at the Foreign Ministry will also allow the two nations to create the appropriate environment for joint ventures in both countries.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan signed the agreement for the Jordanian Government while Cuba's Foreign Secretary Roberto Gonzales signed for his government. The Cuban minister invited a Jordanian delegation to visit Cuba to work out details on some clauses of the agreement dealing with the importation by Jordan of Cuban sugar and the export of Jordanian phosphate and potash to Cuba.

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Khaddam Speech on Arab Situation, Peace Process

JN1712160594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 94

["Text" of speech by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at a ceremony at Damascus University to mark the 50th anniversary of the Arab Lawyers Federation on 17 December—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] O brothers: I am pleased to convey to you the heartfelt greetings of Syria's leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, who hopes that your federation will continue its pan-Arab march.

I am also pleased to welcome you to Damascus, which, 50 years ago, embraced the constituent congress of your federation, which was the first popular expression of common Arab action, based on the belief in the unity of the Arab nation and on its right to live free, sovereign, and noble over its soil.

The federation was founded 50 years ago when skeptics of pan-Arab affiliation and Arabism were active in propagating alien ideas about ending pan-Arab aspirations in the service of the ambitions of colonialism, which was facing the escalating anti-colonialist pan-Arab movements. These movements, at that time, began a stage of strenuous confrontation to achieve national independence.

Your federation was one of the pan-Arab calls raised in the Arab nation that constituted a response aware of the people's feelings and aspirations. Your federation led the efforts aimed at spreading the pan-Arab spirit and underscoring the pan-Arab identity.

The founding of the federation was a natural response to the aspirations of the Arab lawyers in their states to build Arab unity. The Arab Lawyers Federation was also one of the voices raised against colonialism and against foreign interests in the Arab homeland. Over the past 50 years, you contributed to pan-Arab action and struggled, together with the other popular Arab and vocational organizations, in defense of Arab rights. You also contributed to exposing the dangers of Zionism to the Arab nation, and led those who called for a collective Arab position to confront the Israeli aggression. You preserved the unity of your federation despite Arab disputes.

We greet you in the name of Syria's leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, and in the name of Syria on the 50th anniversary of the founding of your federation.

O brothers: Fifty years ago, the Arab nation—from the eastern edge to the Maghreb—passed through times of goodness, hope, victory, and ambitions to build a shining Arab future. Syria, Lebanon, and the Arab Maghreb were liberated from foreign colonialism and the foreign forces left Egypt, Iraq, the Gulf, and Libya. Then, unity was established between Syria and Egypt, the United Arab Republic was established, and the Arabs waged the October war. Syria was capable of remaining steadfast in the face of all challenges aimed at imposing capitulation on it and was able to build its intrinsic potential and entrench its pan-Arab values. The Lebanese resistance also succeeded in expelling the Israeli occupation from large areas of Lebanon and in confronting occupation in southern Lebanon.

All this created the atmosphere that helped the Palestinian brothers declare their intifadah against occupation. This intifadah is still, with its steadfastness and sacrifices, a shining light in the dark alley in which the Palestinian Arab people have been living.

Those were the days of hope, pride, and ambition to build a united Arab society, free of fear and foreign hegemony and control. The ambition was to build a society that is the master of its decisionmaking and of its land, and which contributes to building an international life based on justice, equality, freedom, and national sovereignty, away from aggression or threats to resort to force.

These shining days lived by the Arabs were succeeded by dark days. Darkness dispelled the shining days that we lived and the Arab nation faced very tough times in which disappointment, bitter setbacks, and the pain of divisions and conflicts prevailed. This threatened the land and fate. These dark times witnessed the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation, the collapse of the unity between Syria and Egypt, the June [1967] setback, and the divisions and fragmentations that were crowned by bloody conflicts, the worst of which was the second Gulf war. This war inflicted heavy losses and damage on the Arab nation. We are living with some of the consequences of this damage today and we might live through worse consequences in the future.

The fatal mistakes committed in the Arab arena, including the use of force in inter-Arab relations, drifting away from collective action, the upsurge in the hegemonistic spirit, the lack of commitment to Arab conventions and resolutions, the emphasis on regional identities and isolationism on the part of some Arab states, and choosing national over pan-Arab interests, have conspired to create an Arab decline and foster caution, suspicion, and fear. They are also responsible for filling the Arab masses with frustration and encumbering them with anxiety and fear of the future. National selfishness is hardly the stuff of which glory and ambition is made. It is a check on the ambitions and aspirations of any nation. The new isolationism that seeks to convince the people that the current Arab reality is a national fact imperils individual Arab states as well as the Arab nation at large. Given the current state of Arab relations and world developments, and the covetousness of Arab assets by foreign powers and Israeli aggression, no Arab country on its own can possibly defend its security and territory or build itself. The safest road to take for all

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Arabs is collective Arab action inspired by a community of interests, and self-confidence and faith in a shared destiny.

Recent developments in the Arab arena have been the outcome of a neglect of collective Arab action within the framework of existing institutions. This prove that those who break ranks from their fellow Arabs hurt themselves as well as the Arab nation. Faith in Arab unity and a common Arab destiny amounts to a check against mistakes. This is because faith liberates the mind and strengthens the will and nurtures capabilities. At a stage when Arabs are beset by dangers, the need for faith cannot be overstated. The present state of Arab affairs is a virtual dam blocking the development and advancement of the Arabs and sapping their energy, thereby making the fulfillment of their aspirations for unity, freedom, and advancement a remote possibility. The present state of Arab relations is responsible for the prevailing tension among the Arabs. It is under such conditions that force was used in settling inter- Arab differences.

The Gulf war, in which the Arabs suffered huge losses and Israel reaped the most gains, constituted the worst turning point in inter-Arab relations. The gains Israel accrued from that war and the current state of Arab relations outweigh those Israel made by the force of arms. Believers in Arab unity who look to a bright Arab future are duty bound to exert themselves and build a dam to block successive Arab setbacks and strive for a new configuration of Arab ties grounded in a commitment to collective Arab decisionmaking and action on behalf of such a commitment. Continuing on the road of disunity necessarily makes the strong, no matter how powerful they may be militarily and economically, too weak to withstand dangers, and makes the weak compromise their principles, rights, and values so that enemies of the Arabs are afforded an opening to further their interests. A weak party pursuing its own interests will cede its rights and sovereignty and not mind being insulted. All sincere and honorable Arabs must make it a goal to restore equilibrium to the Arab state of affairs. A revitalization of pan-Arab action constitutes a key element in the effort to restore equilibrium. Unless the Arabs rediscover their faith in their nation and its unity, they stand to lose everything. None of the Arabs can win anything if they insist on fleeing pan-Arab obligations and seeking individual salvation and pursuing parochial interests.

Led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria—wedded to its Arab affiliation and pan-Arab parameters, ably shouldering the heaviest burdens, willing to make the hugest sacrifices, and having held and spread the banner of Arabism and Islam far and wide—urges all Arabs to take stock of their situation. Those who have strayed can still find their way back. Lying ahead of the believers in their nation is a wide road of struggle on behalf of its interests.

The frustration that has affected pan-Arab action, regional isolationism, and the foreign onslaught against the Arab homeland's resources, as well as the growing Israeli arrogance, its increasing military strength, and the retreat from the pan-Arab constants on which the Arabs agreed in their summits have all created currents in the Arab arena. Some of these currents are a reply to the suffering and the feelings of persecution, injustice, and degradation of the Arab peoples.

Each situation creates its own antithesis. The retreat of the pan-Arab antithesis throughout the great [Arab] homeland cannot become reality without having yet another antithesis. This is the movement and natural law of life.

Brothers: The dangers posed to the Arabs are large. The current international situation, which lacks balance, also lacks the bases of justice and equality. Under such a situation, the weak nations will be the biggest losers. Voices rise frequently calling on the Arabs to conform to the so-called new world order. Conformity means relinquishing our natural rights as a nation. In order to conform to the new world order, the Arabs should open their doors to the Israelis and enable them to control the Arab countries and their destinies.

To achieve such conformity, they also must urge the Arabs to liquidate their resistance to the Israeli occupation, because they view resistance as terrorism—whereas killing thousands of Arabs in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, and displacing millions and demolishing their houses is a right granted to the strong party that is protected by the new international situation.

A campaign is being directed against Arabism and Islam. It is also targeting our values, principles, and heritage, and aiming to separate our past, in which these values and principles were entrenched, from our present, in which we are in dire need of regaining these values and adhering to them. This campaign began by mobilizing against the spirit of resistance against occupation and hegemony, so it will be easy for the enemies of this nation to achieve their objectives.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the removal of the pretext of the Soviet and communist threats, Zionism worked to create a new enemy for the Western world in order to effect a confrontation between the Islamic world, with the Arabs in its center, and the West. This would give Israel the opportunity to blackmail the West on the pretext of confronting the common enemy; namely, Arabism and Islam.

The expansion of the anti-Islam campaign by certain world media organizations and politicians only aims to serve Israel on the one hand, and mobilize world public opinion against the armed resistance being waged by the resistance men in the occupied territories on the other. Those who are trying to view the resistance to occupation as a charge should realize that we view these resistance men, who are defending their dignity and

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fighting to liberate the land, as strugglers worthy of appreciation by all free men in the world.

Resistance is a legitimate right secured by all international laws, including the UN Charter. The resistance of occupation will continue to be an object of appreciation and pride by all Arab strugglers. Regaining the peoples' rights, thwarting the aggression, and liberating the land cannot take place by relinquishing rights, abandoning land, or harming dignity.

We tell those who fell into the Israeli trap during their anti-Islam campaign that Islam will continue to be the religion of justice, fraternity, mercy, equality, and freedom. Islam used to be as such in the past, and will continue to be so in the future. Islam calls for freedom, equality, and justice. It does not call for discord. Islam, contrary to what some want, will not be used as a cover for flaws, nor will it call for humiliation or submission. Arabism, like Islam, is our identity and affiliation now, and our hope for the future. Those casting doubts on our pan-Arab affiliation and on this nation's ability to rise and regain its role will not succeed in achieving their objectives.

Brothers: Under the current international situation resulting from the international imbalance, and with the new rise in neo-imperialism, and with the increasing gap between the rich and the poor in a world that lacks the possibilities for achieving economic development and securing the basic requirements of health, education, and food for its sons—under this situation, which lacks justice and equality—the Arabs should determine their position and role because the covetous ambitions are large and the threats are many.

We must give high priority to reviewing the Arab situation and working to lay the bases and standards organizing this situation to restore cohesion, instill confidence in and hope for the future, and to create the ability to achieve our aspirations. The pan-Arab commitment to safeguarding the Arab nation's rights and securing its threatened interests, as well as the efforts to liberate the occupied territories and regain those rights, are the responsibility of all the Arabs.

Arab lawyers: Your role, along with your brothers in the popular Arab organizations and trade unions, is to work for establishing a popular pan-Arab framework, so it will be a basis to promote the work for rectifying the course. Enlightening and mobilizing the people regarding the threats, revealing all that is false and true, and confronting the disinformation and deception campaigns are an important part of your responsibilities as citizens. Those who preceded you were pioneers in that they established your federation so it could be the path to unified Arab action.

This situation, which poses many threats, requires us to speed up the steps on the path to pan-Arab action. Those who read history in a mistaken or distorted manner and have made separate and fateful decisions, which have affected the Arab nation through inter-Arab relations and through dealings with foreigner, should reconsider their reading so that they can remove the damage inflicted on the Arab nation as a result of their distorted reading, interpretation, and practices.

Brothers: Among the threats posed to the Arab nation is the Zionist threat, represented by occupying the land, usurping the rights, and displacing millions of Lebanese, Syrians, and Palestinians. The Zionist Movement has not changed its objectives, which aim to control the region and its resources. Moreover, Israel's strategy seeks to exceed the geographical limits of occupation in order to control the will and dominate the resources and capabilities of the region, benefiting from the gaps in the Arab situation and from those who held their nation in low regard and agreed to follow a path that made it easy for Israel to achieve its objectives.

Among the objectives of Israel is to topple the Arab identity, disengage inter-Arab relations, and remove the institutions of pan-Arab action, so it can remove from the people's minds their own affiliation. This is because Israel is aware that perpetuating Arab feelings and affiliation will not allow Israel to achieve its objectives.

The Israelis' call for establishing the so-called new Middle East is a gateway for the Israeli strategy in the Arab homeland. The objective of such plans is clear; they aim to introduce Israel into the regional configuration. Changing this configuration will be a practical result of such a merger, so a new configuration will be established where Israel will be the strongest element. Such calls, issued every now and then, as well as some international efforts to this effect, pose a great threat to the interest and future of the Arabs.

O brothers: Today, we are the target of a campaign launched by the enemies of peace and freedom under the pretext that Syria does not seek peace. In the Israelis' view, Syria, which calls for a just and comprehensive peace and for restoring occupied Arab territory and usurped rights, does not seek peace. The Israelis see the Arab side as peaceful only when it submits to their demands, as great when it serves their greatness, and as historic when it strays far from its nation, its rights, and its interests.

Following the October war in 1973, we clearly announced that Syria has opted for the path of peace to liberate the land and restore the rights. We also participated in all international peace initiatives, which were all obstructed due to Israel's actions. Israel refuses to consider international legitimacy as a basis for peace and a framework for peace efforts.

At the outset of the spring of 1991, the United States proposed a peace initiative based on international legitimacy. We agreed on it after becoming confident that this initiative would result in restoring all the occupied land and rights. We took part in the Madrid conference and in all the talks stemming from this conference. But,

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we could not advance toward peace in more than three years of talks. Despite this, Syria continues to work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of international legitimacy within the framework of the Security Council resolutions and while adhering to all the objective requirements of peace.

Ever since the Madrid conference, we have been keen to make Arab action collective. The Arab parties that were involved in the peace process agreed to maintain coordination through the meetings of the foreign ministers or the delegations in Washington.

We wanted through this coordination to strengthen the weak ones among us. We wanted to place Syria's strength, negotiating position, and potential at the disposal of the brothers. We were aware that those who broke ranks with their fellow Arabs would weaken their negotiating position because of the imbalance between the position of the aggressor and that of the victim of aggression. We were also aware that unilateral deals, particularly under the current international circumstances and the prevailing Arab situation, would make the Arab party to this unilateral deal weak and feeble in front of the Israelis. This would make the Arab party an easy target.

We wanted the work to be in the open because we are convinced that working in the darkness, away from the masses and those who have interests in peace, will cause suspicion, and it is easy to make suspicious acts in darkness.

Some snuck away on a dark night to sign an agreement in this or that site and Israel isolated the ones who snuck away in the night. Today, we are witnessing the damage inflicted on the people's rights by what has been done in the darkness. These agreements, which lack balance and equity, cannot guarantee a weak party its rights and a strong party security and stability.

Syria's leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, was clear in his stands and actions to reach a just and comprehensive peace that restores lands and rights, safeguards dignity, and regains Arab rights.

We wanted to work in daylight in front of the entire Arab nation because the matter is not about rights for this or that party, but about the fate and future of the Arabs. We wanted to work together, fully aware that conceding some rights would result in relinquishing all rights and that succumbing to the requirements of Israel's interests would not give the subservient a foothold without Israel's permission and decisions.

We are working for the sake of just and comprehensive peace, and we and our brothers in Lebanon are also working seriously and responsibly to achieve our goals, believing that we showed a sound vision by linking the Lebanese and Syrian tracks and that we are stronger when we work together to regain the land and the rights.

O brothers: Syria, which is aware of its pan-Arab and historic role and which is determined to remain a base for a pan-Arab action and a host to strugglers who are seeking unity and freedom and are building a new society, knows that slogans alone cannot open the way for a safe and bright future. Since 16 November 1970, Syria has been pursuing the policy of building the country and achieving economic and social development in order to provide the basic needs of people, to secure the requirements of national defense, and to build its own capabilities under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria has worked in several directions to achieve one goal. The first direction is aimed at building the country politically in light of the pan-Arab doctrine, organizing the society, launching a political life, and giving a role to the popular organizations and professional unions in building and leading the country. The second direction is aimed at building a strong economic structure that will make Syria and its people safe from foreign pressures and poverty. We have been able to make important achievements, and we are today witnessing our prosperous economic structure. The third direction is aimed at spreading science and knowledge and achieving democracy in education as we believe that knowledge and science are the basis for building and developing the country.

We understand the importance of national unity and the need to work to reinforce the internal front. Therefore, Syria's social, political, and economic sectors under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad constitute a power for the Arabs to defend their rights and achieve their aspirations. We believe that the sufferings of the Arabs today will be temporary and that our Arab nation will achieve progress and will regain its role in building a new world in which peace prevails and from which aggression, injustice, and oppression are irradiated.

O brother lawyers: On your 50th anniversary, we wish you a new stage of action and struggle for the sake of the Arab nation, along with your brothers in the Arab popular and professional organizations, so that a liberating pan-Arab current can be formed to defend the Arab nation's rights, safeguard its honor, and achieve its aspirations. Peace be upon you.

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Afghanistan

Dostam Militia's Offensive Repelled

LD1912190594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] [words indistinct] of the 24th Jihadi Division of Faryab says that yesterday the infamous Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful offensive against the mojahedin and the Islamic army forces in Lawlash district in Faryab province. The militia's offensive failed as a result of the resistance of the mojahedin. In the course of this offensive 12 militia were killed and 16 others were wounded. The mojahedin also captured six small weapons [passage indistinct].

India

Study Blames U.S. for Restricting Exports

BK1912034294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A study says that the United States has been effectively restricting Indian exports in key areas of textiles, garments, and other labor intensive products through nontariff barriers. The study by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations points out that the tactics employed by the U.S. include quota restrictions, excessive quality controls, and even restriction on visas to professionals. It recommends that New Delhi must utilize all channels to lobby against the barriers.

Editorial Condemns Silence on Spy Scandal

BK1612112794 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 14 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "State the Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is high time an official statement was made about the activities of the agents of the intelligence agency of Pakistan in Uttar Pradesh (UP), as for quite some time it has been alleged that UP has become a big den of the Pakistani agents who are infiltrating into India through the Nepal route and indulging in anti-India activities on a massive scale. The home minister is always either somewhat incoherent or totally mum when asked about these Pakistani agents' activities in UP. As far as the UP government is concerned, it has not clearly admitted, either, that many of the districts of the state have become the secret hideouts of Pakistani agents. With the incomplete and often incoherent statements of the Home Ministry spokesmen and the emphatic assertion of the ex-chief minister of UP, Mr Kalyan Singh, that the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] has laid its dragnet in more than 20 districts of UP and is now spreading to other districts also, the situation there has become very complex and baffling. Most certainly this confusion must be having an adverse affect on the functioning of the state administration, and it will be no wonder if its telling effect soon starts to afflict the mind of the people of the state.

Hence it would be highly proper if the central home minister explains the situation in the current session of Parliament. If the Pakistani agents have really spread their dragnet in UP with many hideouts, the minister must explain how it became possible and how many such hideouts there are in the state. This statement of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Mr Kalyan Singh is, indeed, very frightening that more than 20 districts of UP have these saboteurs' hideouts, which have threatened our internal security with very grave consequences. What is amazing is the absence of any reaction to Mr Kalyan Singh's assertion from either the state or the federal governments. Kalayan Singh has gone to the extent of charging that the ISI has one big hide-out in Itawah district and the supporters of the state ruling party stormed a police station to achieve the release of an ISI agent. The truth will be revealed only after a formal enquiry, but this much is certain: Many state politicians' role in protecting the honor of our Constitution and in safeguarding our internal security has been found wanting. In the Nadva episode, the way our duty-bound police officers were suspended has certainly demoralized our police force. The role of the politicians and the state administration in the same episode was far from satisfactory. If the police force of the state continues to be treated in such a callous manner and their senior officials continue to receive unwanted punishment for their dutifulness and patriotic fervor, the antinational elements and saboteurs are likely to grow more audacious and ruthless.

It is really a matter of shocking disbelief that while the Pakistani agents are intensifying their activities, the Federal Home Ministry is not prepared to issue a public statement to explain the situation. Equally amazing is the extra attention being paid to the politics of the vote bank in the face of growing danger to our internal security and the intensification of the terrorist activities in our country. If the situation is allowed to develop unchecked, these Pakistani agents can create a very dangerous law and order problem. It is no longer a secret how they managed to explode bombs in Bombay and Calcutta and murder hundreds of innocent people. Is the Home Ministry aware of the potential threat to our security from these Pakistani agents? Does it know about the large amount of explosives these saboteurs are amassing in our country and how devastating their sinister designs can prove to be?

This explosive material being smuggled into the country by these Pakistani agents not only disturbs our communal harmony, but it can also adversely affect Indian politics. The state government cannot deny the presence of this explosive material in the state as examples have been confiscated many times. Does the dangerous situation not call for immediate enquiry into the matter jointly by the state and the federal government? If such an enquiry is nipped in the bud for the political consideration of the vote banks, indeed it would be a very

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ominous sign. It is not known whether the state government is even prepared for such an enquiry or not, but it would be eminently proper if the state government were to undertake the responsibility of conducting an intensive enquiry in the activities of these ISI agents. The federal government should also put pressure on the state to start such an enquiry. It should not be forgotten in this context that the chief of the Army Staff, General Shankar Rai Chaudhari, had himself warned that the maximum danger to India's internal security is from those foreign powers who are sponsoring all the terrorist activities in the country. Although Gen Chaudhari did not specifically name Pakistan, his accusing finger is unmistakably pointing there. So, it is clear that the reports about Pakistan's spy agency having its hideout in UP are not baseless. If the presence of these enemy dens is not taken seriously, it will be tantamount to letting our internal security go to the dogs.

Commentary Says Kashmir 'Nonissue' at ICO Summit

BK1912113394 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Dec 94

[Commentary by Samual Beg]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On her return from the summit of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] countries in Casablanca mid-December, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto claimed that her country had succeeded in internationalizing the Kashmir issue, but those who have the first-hand knowledge about what really transpired at the summit of 52 Muslim countries may find this claim amusing. This claim in the light of her domestic challenges was quite understandable and, therefore, it could not be ignored. The stark fact is that Casablanca for Pakistan was not more heartening than Geneva in March and the United Nations last month. Pakistan at those occasions failed to mobilize the support of Muslim countries for moving a Kashmir related resolution at the United Nations Humans Rights Commission meeting and then at the UN General Assembly session.

Journalists who covered the said ICO summit are unanimous in their assessment that Kashmir was a nonissue there, in spite of Pakistan's hectic efforts to create an emotional atmosphere in favor of what it claimed the suffering Muslims of Kashmir. Pakistan was not expecting that India would allow Hurriyat [All Parties Hurriyat Conference] leaders to attend the summit, but the arrival of Hurriyat chief, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, and other leaders on Indian passports took the wind out of Pakistan's propaganda sails. Not only that, Farooq's statement at press conference in Casablanca that India wanted to hold elections in Kashmir, but the Kashmiris would not take part in them, only confirmed the Indian charge that its efforts to restore democracy and normalcy in that state were being hampered by Pakistan and its local agents. Hurriyat Conference is known to be a pro-Pakistani outfit in Kashmir, but perhaps the most demoralizing development for Pakistan was the speech of King Hassan of Morocco in which he condemned those fundamentalist militants who were spoiling the image of Islam the world over. Also, the conference adopted a code of conduct committing its members to eschew helping militants of those countries on their soil. This was a demand of Egypt and Algeria who have been accusing Pakistan for allowing the fundamentalist militants to use its soil for antistate activities in their own countries.

The ICO summit anyhow passed a resolution on Kahsmir on Pakistan's behest ignoring the factual position there. The facts about Kashmir, which the ICO must understand before passing any resolution on that state, is that the present problem is a creation of Pakistan which has been sending trained terrorists. The human rights violations in Kashmir are being committed by those whom Pakistan has been financing and arming in the name of Islam. That must stop if the ICO is serious about human rights or at least about its own code of conduct. Another fact that the ICO must accept is that the UN resolution referred to by it in Casablanca requires Pakistan to vacate the area in Kashmir which it had occupied through tribal invasion in 1947. That was the first condition for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, but Pakistan till today has not obeyed that. On the contrary, it divided occupied Kashmir into Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas and claimed it as its own territory. It was the second violation of the UN resolution by Pakistan. Again, it gave a large chunk of territory to China in 1963 in violation of these resolutions. With these facts before it, the ICO must decide who is guilty party in Kashmir and to who its resolutions be addressed to.

In its resolution, the ICO also ignored the fact that Pakistan has been consistently rejecting India's offer for resuming talks on normalizing relations. Amusingly, the ICO asks India to respond to Pakistan's offer for starting talks. That shows utter ignorance of the ICO countries about the facts which are against Pakistan. Moreover, the resolution passed by an organization which cares for no facts carry no weight and India is not obliged even to give an ear to them.

Positive Signs Seen From ICO Conference

BK1912101094 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 17 Dec 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Islamic Conference Also Said It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has made the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO] a permanent forum for keeping the Kashmir issue alive. Whenever Pakistan fails to corner India on the subject at any true international forum, it invariably seeks recourse at the ICO to lessen the bitterness of its failure. This is not the first attempt by Pakistan to raise the Kashmir question at Casablanca, but there are two distinct and important implications from this particular meeting. First, for the first time, the Indian Government allowed the two

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leaders of the Kashmir secessionist group, the Hurriyat Conference, to participate in the meeting. This decision appears to have been guided by the government's intention to prove that it does not want to hide any facts regarding Kashmir, and thereby prove the falseness of the Pakistani propaganda that there is no freedom of expression in the valley. This sort of liberal policy has its own inherent dangers for the government. For many months, the relevance of the Hurriyat Conference leaders in the overall perspective of Kashmir has been declining steadily. With the intense pressure exerted on the terrorist organizations by the Indian security forces and the Western countries' declining interest in the terrorist propaganda, the credibility of these terrorist and secessionist groups has come into question. The participation of the Hurriyat Conference leaders at the Casablanca meeting is sure to revive their own importance, and Pakistan can exploit their exaggerated statements to the hilt in its anti-India propaganda. In fact, a Hurriyat leader has claimed that now India would find their arguments unassailable, in contrast with earlier Pakistani propaganda which India could refute with competitive ease. This means that these Hurriyat representatives have planned to strengthen the Pakistani propaganda machinery.

The second implication is much more important. The majority of the ICO has opined that in order to solve the Kashmir tangle, India and Pakistan must start bilateral negotiations. In the earlier ICO conferences, India used to be the favorite butt of scathing criticism in very provocative language for alleged violation of Islamic and human values. The ICO general secretary never missed an opportunity to criticize India in the most bitter terms in his reports. Now this different style has emerged after Pakistan's disgraceful failure to propose an anti-India resolution to the UN political committee which could garner the support of more than two Islamic countries outside the ICO contact group. Of these two countries, one was Bosnia, whose own existence is threatened and who urgently needs the support of countries like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan's failure was due mainly to two factors. For many Islamic countries, their economic interests have begun to outweigh their religious considerations and they prefer having good business relations with India. The second reason was the danger which the West sees coming from this group in the name of religion. Since this group is of international stature and its actions are unlikely to remain confined to the subcontinent, modern Western civilization sees it as a threat to its economic interests and a deterrent to their post-Marxism development. This ominous threat, through the developments in Bosnia and Chechnya, was reaching Europe directly with sinister effects. Pakistan realized this but could not give up its harping on Kashmir. The other developing Muslim countries might have refused to get entangled in this incessant rhetoric. No wonder they prefer to stay aloof, although the developing Muslim countries do not dare flout the international Islamic brotherhood's dictates, no matter how progressive they may be in their own policies.

Iran

Commentary Denies Breaking Sanctions Against Iraq

LD2012123894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 20 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The American Government has sent a letter to the Security Council's sanctions committee, accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of helping to break the sanctions against Iraq. This sanctions committee is affiliated with the Security Council and monitors the resolutions imposing sanctions on Iraq which were approved after the invasion of Kuwait.

In November, the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf inspected three ships carrying the flag of the United Arab Emirates, and the commanders of the ships said they were carrying Iraqi oil. The ships took on Iraqi oil products by converting their water storage tanks and were smuggling oil in violation of Security Council resolutions.

Now, the United States is claiming that, since it is highly likely that the cargo was loaded at the port of Basra or Khur al-Zubayr and since Iran oversees [eshraf darad] these regions, Iran has in practice turned a blind eye to these actions, thus assisting the violation of the sanctions against Iraq.

It is interesting that the United States' letter to the Security Council's sanctions committee makes no reference to the country of the flag flown by the ships, whereas direct responsibility for this incident lies with that country.

It should be added that Iraq's refusal to exchange Iranian POWs in return for Iraqis and its assistance to terrorist and counter-revolutionary grouplets who target civilian and innocent people in Iranian territory are major obstacles blocking normal relations between the two countries, and there is no reason why Iran should help in the violation of sanctions against Iraq.

Political analyst believe that in taking this action the aim of the United States is to foil recent efforts by Russia, Iraq, and France to reduce or lift the sanctions against Iraq and that it is an indication of the United States' severe attitude toward Iraq. In addition, accusations against Iran in this connection are totally baseless and are considered to be a continuation of the United States' enmity against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

U.S. Claim of Aid to Iraq 'Fabricated'

LD2012111194 Tehran IRNA in English 0942 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—Director for international affairs of the National Iranian

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Oil Company (NIOC), H. Ghanimi Fard here Monday [19 December] scoffed at a report which appeared in the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY quoting U.S. accusations of Iran helping Iraq violate the U.N. oil embargo.

Speaking to the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' published Tuesday [20 December], he said, "it's an old funny story which has no truth at all". He underlined that so many fabricated stories with no documentation or supporting evidence have been written and broadcast adding that now people do not even pay any attention to such baseless charges against the Islamic Republic.

According to the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES), the United States has accused iran of helping Iraq violate the U.N. oil embargo and threatened new U.N. action to discourage such activity, the article noted.

Referring to the November decision of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to freeze production quotas until 1995, Ghanimi Fard said, "that was one of the best decision OPEC members have made in recent years." The 12-member OPEC, meeting in Bali, Indonesia, decided with one voice on the freeze. The current combined oil output is 24.52 million barrels a day. "But the oil market depends on other factors, too, such as the production of non-OPEC members," he stressed.

He added that if the non-OPEC members tried to produce more than what they were expected, then the world oil market would get upset. The overall world oil production is 66 to 67 million barrels a day including OPEC's combined quota of 24.5 million, the paper quoted him as saying.

The November 21 OPEC decision on sealing the production quota was made to boost deteriorating world oil prices, he told the daily.

Commenting on the possible oil situation next year, Ghanimi Fard said that two important factors are at stake. First, Iraq might enter the world market, he noted adding that Iraq, with its economy now in shambles, has said it will pump oil as quickly as it can when the U.N. embargo is lifted.

"The Iraqi return to the oil market would almost surely bring prices down if the highest oil producer does not adjust its quota," he told the daily. "He did not name the highest oil producer, but apparently referred to Saudi Arabia which now produces over 8 million barrels a day, topping the list of oil producers," the paper commented.

The OPEC quota has been in practice since September 1993, and experts forecast an increase in oil demand by up to 66.8 million b/d [barrels per day] next year, up by 840,000 barrels from this year.

Secondly, Ghanimi fard predicts oil demand will increase in the West next year based on reports of economic growth as a whole, paving the way for increased oil demand. "I wish that OPEC members would come up to their commitment on production quotas," he said and concluded that otherwise, it will weaken the organization.

Impact of Bahrain Unrest on GCC Summit Viewed

NC2012065894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 20 Dec 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 15th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] began its deliberations in Manama, the capital of Bahrain, under stringent security yesterday. Following the arrest of one of the country's clerics last week, Bahrain has been gripped by unrest, tension, and extensive demonstrations.

The spread of the unrest in Bahrain was so extensive that some experts suggested the GCC summit session might be postponed. Even though this session opened as scheduled, observers stated that the unrest in Bahrain would have a negative impact on the decisions of the GCC members. Agreement on security issues and resolving border disputes and issues that hinder cooperation among the littoral countries in the southern Persian Gulf are among the topics on the Manama session's agenda.

Border disputes among the GCC member countries have constantly affected their decisions in the 13 years of the Council. In the latest instance, the border disputes between Qatar and Saudi Arabia resulted in Qatar absenting itself from the GCC ministerial session in Riyadh and abstaining from signing the approved security plan. Thus, it seems unlikely that this plan, which is to be debated in Manama, will have Qatar's concurrence.

Apart from the territorial differences among the countries in the southern Persian Gulf, if we review the political instability in these countries, the inability of the GCC members to reach a consensus on joint plans becomes even more conspicuous. The GCC summit is in progress in Manama while unrest continues in Bahrain. In Saudi Arabia—one of the most important members of the GCC—internal opposition has intensified. The political instability of these countries has, more than anything, diverted their attention from foreign issues to domestic problems. This has motivated them to concentrate their abilities on restoring political stability.

Seminar Held on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Rowhani on Lack of 'Trust'

LD1912083894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Legal, technical and political aspects of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty were

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discussed at a seminar in Tehran today, attended by civil officials, researchers, specialists, and university students and lecturers.

Mr. Rowhani, deputy speaker of the Majles and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council delivered a speech in which he referred to the current Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty. He said that the fact that the Cold War has ended does not mean that there will be no more confrontations, because trust has not replaced the former unhealthy rivalry, and confrontations have not ceased.

He added: Due to the military presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf, with a fleet equipped with nuclear weapons, and due to the presence of nuclear weapons in neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has more reason than most to be worried in this regard.

Mr. Rowhani stressed: Officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly said that Iran does not seek nuclear and atomic weapons, and has no wish for a nonpeaceful use of nuclear energy; for this reason, the details of the treaty are very important to us and are closely linked to our national security, and our country's growth and development.

He said: The treaty must apply to all countries, and it must be adhered to by all powers. Mr. Rowhani added: The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be deprived of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the wishes of the United States.

Mr. Amrollahi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, also addressed the audience, and spoke about the aims of the seminar. He said: As already stated, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and hopes that it will witness the emergence of an unbiased nuclear non-proliferation treaty next year.

Official Calls For Revision of NPT

LD1812210294 Tehran IRNA in English 1611 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif here Sunday [18 December] called for revisions in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Speaking to a national seminar on the legal, technological and political aspects of the N.P.T. held at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Zarif said that Iran and other Non-Nuclear-Weapon States (NNWS) want their legitimate opinions to be observed in the NPT revision conference due to be held in New York next April.

He referred to conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) before the revision conference and said it will prevent vertical proliferation of the nuclear arms.

He commented that negative security assurances on the part of those nuclear states—not to use nuclear weapons against NNWS—declaring certain regions throughout the world as nuclear weapon free zone (NWFZ), Middle East in particular, could be observed in the conference which is to review and make decision on extension of NPT next April. They should also consider non-deployment of nuclear weapons by those countries who possess such weapons in other countries soil, determining a "target date" for destruction of such weapons by those countries who are of nuclear arms.

He further stressed that Iran as a very basic principle of its foreign policy is an opponent of weapons of mass destruction and has never been in quest of nuclear weapons.

However, he said, Iran holds the view that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should undertake its obligations towards the signatories to NPT and IAEA's Safeguard Treaty.

The developing countries, signatories to the NPT and Safeguard Treaty, insist that they should enjoy their legal rights for peaceful utilization of nuclear energy envisaged in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Zarif said.

The two-day seminar co-sponsored by Foreign Ministry, AEOI and Shahid Beheshti University is to deal with the legal, technical and political aspects of the NPT and to formulate Iranian opinion in this regard.

Non-Proliferation Treaty opened for signature on July 1, 1968 and entered into force on March 5, 1970 after it had been ratified by the depositories (former Soviet Union, Britain and the U.S.A.) and 40 other states signatories to the treaty as of October 1, 1993. 160 states have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Nuclear Program Said 'Peaceful'

LD1812210194 Tehran IRNA in English 2011 GMT 18 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani, here Sunday [18 December] stressed that Iran does [as received] intend to use nuclear technology for military purposes.

Referring to the Zionist regime which possesses at least 80 nuclear warheads Rowhani said this indicates discriminatory implementation of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT].

Israel is not a signatory to the NPT and refuses to allow inspection teams from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to visit its nuclear installations. Israel hides its nuclear weapons, he added.

Addressing the national seminar on the legal, technical and political aspects of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, he condemned Washington for assisting Israel in producing nuclear weapons.

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Rowhani, who also vice-speaker of the Majles, asked that if all countries are considered as equal why should Iran be deprived of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes?

If Iran is to keep its commitments to the NPT it must have active presence at the NPT conference. It should review and make decisions on extension of the treaty, in order to make the conference observe the view points of Iran and other developing countries.

Iran signed the NPT on February 2nd, 1970.

The SNSC secretary said NPT's future is important for Iran since it deals with Iran's national security, not only because of the likelihood of nuclear attacks but also for chance explosions at atomic installations.

It also has tight link with Iran's development and growth as nuclear technology could be used in medical, health, agricultural and industrial fields, he added.

Iranian researchers are to present papers at the seminar on the legal, technical and political aspects of NPT.

Velayati Stresses NPT 'Importance'

LD1912212794 Tehran IRNA in English 2059 GMT 19 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday [19 December] said Iran considers indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as contradictory to the treaty's basic objectives.

Indefinite extension of NPT will let those nuclear powers keep their nuclear weapons for ever.

Addressing the concluding session of the two-day national seminar on the legal, technical and political aspects of NPT, Velayati outlined Iran's viewpoints regarding the conference which is to review and make decision on extension of the NPT next April.

He stressed that despite the basic flaws in the NPT, Iran attaches great importance to it. However, he added that Tehran will accept limited extension of the treaty provided that nuclear powers quit the nuclear deterrence doctrine and enter into negotiations aiming at complete destruction of nuclear weapons within a determined period.

He also called for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) without any conditions and ban of production, accumulation and promotion of any kind of fusionable materials which will use in production of nuclear weapons.

Velayati stressed that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty should be finalised until the 1995 conference, the 1963 treaty calling for curbs on nuclear tests should be improved.

He also underlined that the ways should be paved for the peaceful use of nuclear energy by member countries of the treaty without any exception and they should also expand their cooperation in the field of transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purpose.

An international treaty would guarantee the necessary security by preventing nuclear powers from posing nuclear threats to non-nuclear states, said the foreign minister.

At the end of the two-day national seminar on the legal, technical and political aspects of Non-Proliferation Treaty, Vice-President and head of Iranian Atomic Energy (IAE) Reza Amrollahi presented plaques of commendation to the participants.

Nepal

Commercial Goods Turned Away at Calcutta Port

BK2012122994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 20 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Dec 20 (AFP)—India continued to block Nepal-bound imported commercial goods from entering the country Tuesday [20 December], and the action has hiked market prices for some goods in the Himalayan kingdom, a Commerce Ministry source said.

"Only goods concerning government offices have been released but thousands of metric tons of commercial goods, including baby foods, edible oil and construction materials are still blocked at the Calcutta port," the highly placed official said.

The action hiked local market prices, including those for baby foods and industrial raw materials, the source said.

The Calcutta port is the only transit point India has provided to Nepal to carry out its imports and exports to overseas markets. Authorities stopped Nepal's port clearance on December 12 in a dispute over letters of credit, the official said.

"There had been some understanding between the former Nepali Congress government and the Indian government about the procedural matters on the certificate of Letters of Credit [LC] after they discovered some fake LC's," Nepalese Minister of State for Commerce Bhim Bahadur Rawa earlier told AFP.

Rawal had claimed that the commercial goods had been released, but he later told AFP that the goods were still detained.

New Prime Minister Outlines Policies

BK0912145594 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 1 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, 30 Nov—The country has entered a new phase and the first responsibility of the new government will be to inform the people

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about the existing realities and problems facing the country, said Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari today in his first message to the nation after the swearing in ceremony at Singh Durbar [prime minister's office].

"We shall work with tremendous sensitivity for social security and to uproot corruption through an administration that is responsible to the people", Mr. Adhikari said. "This has been a popular expectation for a long time."

Mr. Adhikari, in the written message, said poverty is a grave problem facing the people now. "The supply system will be well-managed and other practical measures will be adopted to check poverty". Then he gave a brief outline of the government's programmes and priorities in the future.

On economic policies of the new administration, Mr. Adhikari spoke of the need to give the national economy a right direction by improving all fronts. "Our primary task will be to adopt development oriented economic policies and to expand the foundation of national development by maintaining regional balance and enhancing the role of local entrepreneurs and the private sector", the Prime Minister said. Mr. Adhikari noted that an effective evaluation system will be developed to "mobilize capital, investment and foreign assistance depending upon the national requirement". The foreign assistance will be encouraged as provided by these policies, Mr. Adhikari noted.

On the foreign policy of the country, Mr. Adhikari said "the foreign policy should be directed at overall welfare of the people". We shall always remain effortful to improve the relations with all the friendly countries, specially India and China, based on the principles of equality and the Panchasheel [five principles of peaceful coexistence], Mr. Adhikari said.

"The government will evolve a policy leading to resolve the Bhutanese refugees' problems by mutual agreement", he said.

The Bhutanese refugees' problems are one of the burning issues facing the country. There are over one hundred thousand Bhutanese refugees currently residing in various camps in the eastern district of Nepal.

Mr. Adhikari said a high level commission will be set up to resolve the existing problems on land reforms as the majority of the people rely on agriculture.

The base for social justice will be consolidated to end the prevalent social evils so as to create a healthy, prosperous and civilized society at home, the Prime Minister said.

The report submitted by the Mallik Commission will be made public and steps will be taken to make the concerned laws and authorities effective to control corruption and misuse of authority, said the Prime Minister.

The government will remain very sensitive to ensure security of the children, the aged and the helpless. Mr. Adhikari announced that the government will launch effective programmes to alleviate poverty by improving the economic conditions of the people and accord priority to enhance education and to create more employment opportunities. The government will reduce the land revenues charged on land ownership, the Prime Minister said.

He added that practical measures will be taken up to solve the problems of citizenship and the landless squatters.

The government will amend the laws hampering human rights and set up a Human Rights Commission as part of its commitment to democracy and people's rights.

Besides, the government will drop charges against prisoners jailed for political reasons.

"I thank the people for giving their mandate electing us to the power which in itself is a historic event", said the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister said that the government should represent the sentiments of the people and should develop a tradition of respecting their views.

Mr. Adhikari said that the UML [United Marxist-Leninist] government is eagerly looking forward to ensure effective implementation of the agreement signed by the party with the Nepali Congress on 16 August 1993 regarding the Tanakpur [power plant] issue, and the matters associated with the civil servants and teachers.

"In this respect our entire internal and external political and economic policies and decisions will be inspired by the intentions to consolidate the country and to make the people obtain their rights by making them dignified and capable," he said.

"We are first the Nepalese, thus all citizens should perceive that the development of our country and the prosperity of the people is the goal of our future."

The government has a serious concern for the woes faced by the army, police, civil servants along with the people associated with different works.

"I appeal to all the Nepalese to be united for the solution of all the problem and make the democratic exercise complete", Mr. Adhikari said.

"We shall remain effortful in according maximum importance to the country's welfare in the process of running the government and to strengthen the foundation of national consensus which we are looking forward to adopt", he said.

"I would like to make an appeal to all the high level leaders of of different parties at this instance to remain effortful in consolidating the foundations of national consensus by sorting out the intra-party disputes through

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the process of dialogue and interaction at this complicated political situation," Mr. Adhikari said.

Mr. Adhikari expressed the confidence that it is possible to establish appropriate basis and system of national consensus provided that "we all make genuine efforts".

He said such efforts will be sustain political stability and economic development and will bring peace and security in the country, he said.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to all the Nepalese at home and abroad for their help and support in the present context of the formation of a new government after the election," Mr. Adhikari said.

He also expressed profound hope that all countries which have shown interest for the development of Nepal will continue to extend their cooperation in the near future.

"Nepal has entered into a new journey and thus I request all concerned to take the country towards the goals envisaged", Mr. Adhikari said.

Nepali Congress Party Wins Parliament Speaker's Seat

BK1712151594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 17 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Dec 17 (AFP)—The Nepali Congress (NC) Party Saturday [17 December] won the influential speaker's seat in parliament with a clear majority over the ruling Communist Party's candidate, parliamentary sources said.

NC candidate and former Agriculture Minister Ram Chandra Paudyel beat Chandra Prakash [word indistinct] of the ruling Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) by 107 votes to 94 in the 205-member House of Representatives, the source said.

The victory stems from an alliance forged Friday between the NC and the Royalist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP).

The two parties also agreed to cooperate on electing the deputy speaker, an NC party source said Friday. The NCP-UML had earlier also tried to win over the RPP with an offer to share the deputy speaker's seat and the chairs of the various parliamentary committees.

The NCP-UML has 88 members in the 205-member House of Representatives together with the support of all the other leftwing parties, which gave it a total 94 seats.

But it was counting on the RPP to give it the extra seats it needed to secure the election.

The NC has 83 seats and the RPP 20. Analysts believe this NC-RPP agreement could spell trouble in the future for the NCP-UML although it is likely to easily win a vote of confidence later this month as both the NC and RPP will vote for it as neither wants polls again so soon after the [word indistinct] elections.

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